

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:591

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2006

EXTENSION OF AIR AND DOORDARSHAN SERVICES TO BORDER AREAS

Singh Baba Shri K.C.

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIR and Doordarshan Services are not accessible to people in several areas along the border of India particularly North-Eastern region;

(b) if so, the details of places where AIR and Doordarshan services are still not available; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to extend the services of AIR and Doordarshan to such areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI)

(a) to (c) : While majority of the areas along the borders of India, particularly in the North-Eastern Region, are covered by both A.I.R. and Doordarshan services, their coverage of the many high mountain areas and inaccessible hilly areas in the North-Eastern Region, Jammu and Kashmir and other border areas may not be adequate. However, short-wave covers all these areas but the quality of short wave reception is again variable depending upon atmospheric conditions.

As regards the coverage of Doordarshan, with the launch of the Ku band (DTH Free-to-Air mode) transmission service of Doordarshan from 16th Dec. 2004, the areas hitherto uncovered have been provided with its multi-channel coverage. Its bouquet consisting of thirty-three T.V. and twelve A.I.R. channels can now be received throughout the country (except Andaman and Nicobar Islands) including North-Eastern States and other border areas, with the help of a small sized dish receive unit.

In order to strengthen the coverage of both A.I.R. and T.V. in the North-Eastern Region, a Special Package (Phase II) for the N.E. States (including Sikkim and Island Territories) is under consideration.