

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:171

ANSWERED ON:22.02.2011

COVERAGE OF DD AIR PROGRAMMES

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

- (a) the details of steps taken by the Government for expanding the broadcasting coverage of Doordarshan and All India Radio programmes in the country including in backward and rural areas, State-wise;
- (b) whether some TV and radio stations in the country have not been made functional for the last few years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the total amount spent on such stations, State-wise; and
- (d) the time by which such TV and Radio Stations are likely to be made fully functional, State-wise, including Odisha?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN)

(a) Doordarshan has been assigning priority to expansion of TV coverage in various expansion Plans formulated from time to time. At present, there are 1415 TV transmitters functioning in the country (State wise number is given at Annexure-I). The above transmitters provide TV coverage to about 92% population of the country, including a large segment of population in backward and rural areas.

For further expansion of AIR & TV coverage in J&K, a scheme involving an outlay of Rs 100 crore has been approved. As part of this scheme, five High power TV transmitters are envisaged to be setup in J&K.

All the areas uncovered by terrestrial transmission, along-with rest of the country, have been provided with multi channel TV coverage through Doordarshan's free-to-air DTH service "DD Direct Plus" (Ku-band), signals of which can be received anywhere in the country(except Andaman & Nicobar Islands), including backward and rural areas, with the help of small sized dish receive units. DTH service in C-band with a bouquet of 10 channels has been provided especially for Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Presently, broadcasting service of All India Radio is being provided from 238 places across the country. AIR terrestrial coverage is 91.85% (by area) and 99.18% (by population) which includes the population of backward/ rural as well as urban areas. In addition, AIR is also providing 21 radio channels on Ku band on DD Direct plus platform, which are available all over India except Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Apart from this 100 watt FM transmitter (Relay) have already been installed at 41 more places and these will be taken into regular service on the receipt of Frequency clearance from WPC Wing, Department of Telecom, Ministry of Communications.

AIR Plans to provide coverage to 100% population of the country. In order to augment the coverage, the power of existing 28 transmitters of AIR is being upgraded and 297 more transmitters of various capacities are also being installed throughout the country during 11th Plan as per details given in Annexure-II & III respectively. These transmitters would provide coverage in rural/ backward/ inaccessible areas also.

(b & c) No completed project of Doordarshan is at present pending for commissioning. However, 46 LPTs are relaying partial transmission due to non-availability of adequate staff. State-wise locations of the above LPTs alongwith their approved costs are given at Annexure-IV

5 AIR stations are technically ready, but could not be commissioned due to non-receipt of O&M staff sanction and 23 nos. of Stations/ channels are only relaying programmes in-spite of availability of production facilities due to non sanction of O&M staff as per details including their cost are given at Annexure-V & VI respectively.

(d) At the earliest possible, after the requisite posts are sanctioned and staff deployed.