

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2309

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2011

FUNCTIONING OF AIR IN A & N

Ray Shri Bishnu Pada

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

- (a) whether no regular Station Director of All India Radio (AIR) has been posted in Port Blair for the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; & the time from which two number transmission towers of 100 KW situated at Brookshabad collapsed, resulting in poor transmission in the entire territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the reason for not covering the inhibited Island of Andaman and Nicobar Islands by AIR transmission at present;
- (e) the reason for not constructing the boundary wall of the land allotted about 30 years back to the AIR at Brookshabad: and
- (f) the time by which the collapsed towers and boundary wall are likely to be constructed?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. Due to shortage of staff in Indian Broadcasting (Programme)Service [IB(P)S] no Station Director has been posted. However, an Indian Broadcasting (Engineering) Service [IB(E)S] officer has been functioning as the Head of Office. The senior most Programme Executive (PEX) has been declared as the Programme Head.

(c) & (d) The AIR programmes from Port Blair are broadcast simultaneously on 100 kw Medium Wave (MW) Transmitter (684 kHz) as well as on 10 kW Short Wave (SW) Transmitter (4760 / 7390 kHz). The 100 kW MW Transmitter has two Masts (Towers); one of this is active and the other passive. Due to heavy cyclonic winds, the passive Mast fell down on 25.04.2008, however transmission was going on full power, but coverage pattern was affected. The active Mast fell down on 19th April, 2010, while carrying out final adjustment after replacement of Guy ropes of this Mast. Immediately as an interim arrangement the service was shifted to an L-Aerial, and the transmission power was reduced to 10 kW MW, resulting in reduced coverage area of the MW transmitter. However, the same service on Short Wave transmitter was not affected and was available throughout the island territory.

(e) At present barbed wire fencing is provided around transmitter building at Brookshabad. The requirement of boundary wall is being projected in the 12th Plan which is under formulation.

(f)

(i) The firm has already taken up the work of re-erection of the Active Mast and the work is likely to be completed by December, 2011, thereafter the Transmission on 100 KW MW power would be restored. The erection of 2nd Mast (passive) would also be taken up in the current financial year 2011-12 and it is likely to be completed by June, 2012.

(ii) The boundary wall would be completed within 2 years of the sanction of the 12th Plan schemes.