

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3213
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2012
FUNCTIONING OF DDKS AIR STATIONS
Tudu Shri Laxman;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

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

- (a) whether a number of Doordarshan Kendras (DDKs) and All India Radio(AIR) stations are not working properly or working partly due to insufficient staff or other reasons;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto, location-wise;
- (c) the number of DDK and AIR stations closed alongwith the reasons therefor, DDK/AIR-wise and location-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for smooth functioning of DDK/AIR stations?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that there are at present 67 DDKs Studio centres and 1415 TV transmitters in Doordarshan network. Due to the non availability of staff, 46 Low Power Transmitters are presently relaying partial transmission and activities at 23 Studio centres are limited. (Statewise locations given at annexure-I). Functioning of all Doordarshan centres is generally satisfactory, though complaints of malfunctioning of a few transmitters are received from time to time and these are attended to promptly. There is acute shortage of staff in Doordarshan network. Staff has not been sanctioned for manning new stations for the last about eleven years, and a large number of stations have been operationalized by way of redeployment of staff drawn from other stations. It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to utilize the facilities optimally within the constraint of available resources.

As regards All India Radio (AIR), 24 stations/ channels for which sanction of O&M staff has not been received are working sub-optimally as these projects/ Schemes of AIR were commissioned/ operationalised by redeployment of staff from other existing stations and therefore due to shortage of manpower these AIR Stations/ channels are either relaying programme, in-spite of availability of production facilities, and/or these are running for single or two shifts against three shift required. The location-wise details are given in Annexure- II. Attempts are being made for sanction of the required staff for these stations/ Channels for optimum utilization of facilities.

Some of the AIR stations are partly affected due to the constraints of funds, shortage of staff and spares. 51 nos. of MW/SW/FM Transmitters of AIR are working sub-optimally as these transmitters are very old and their efficiency has reduced due to aging. The location-wise details are given in Annexure- III.

(c) One low power TV transmitter at Bhusawal in Maharashtra had been closed during last three years. The LPT was closed consequent to the commissioning of high power TV transmitter at Jalgaon, which provides TV coverage to erstwhile coverage area of LPT Bhusawal.

No AIR station has been closed due to shortage of Manpower or any other reason. However, 50 kW SW Transmitters installed at Jammu (J&K), Ranchi (Jharkhand) & Kohima (Nagaland) and 250 kW SW Transmitter at Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh) are not working due to shortage of spares.

(d) Following steps are being taken by AIR for smooth functioning of AIR stations :

(i) Issue of sanction of O&M staff and filling up of critical vacancies are under active consideration.

(ii) Procurement of spares for the old transmitters are under process.

(iii) The old Transmitters are being replaced in phased manner with the state of the art latest Digital Technology Transmitters under Five Year Plans.