

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1404

ANSWERED ON:21.08.2012

COVERAGE OF DD/AIR SERVICES .

Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the services of Doordarshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR) are not reaching various parts of the country including Maharashtra and far flung rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise and location-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ensure that DD and AIR programmes reach to all parts of the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such proposal is likely to be implemented?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that the broadcast service of AIR provided through 436 AM/ FM transmitters installed all over the country has got terrestrial coverage of 91.87% area and 99.19% population of the country. Apart from this 21 satellite radio channels (Programmes) of AIR available through DD Direct plus DTH platform (Ku band) are available all over the country except Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The State-wise terrestrial coverage by AIR AM/FM transmitters is given in Annexure.

As regards Doordarshan, 1415 TV Transmitters of varying power are presently functioning in their network and provide coverage to about 92% population of the country including a large segment of rural population. Out of the above 1415 TV Transmitters, 121 transmitters are located in Maharashtra. 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", signals of which can be received any where in the country with the help of small sized dish receive units.

(c) & (d) All India Radio Plans to provide coverage to 100% population of the country. In order to further augment the terrestrial coverage in the country, the power of 12 transmitters of AIR is being upgraded and 271 additional MW/ FM Transmitters of various capacities are being installed throughout the country which is likely to be completed by 2013 subject to allocation of adequate fund by the Planning Commission in the 12th Five Year Plan.

Proposal for setting up of additional FM Transmitters of various capacities all over the country especially in the far flung rural and border areas has also been made in the 12th Plan.

As regards Doordarshan, new Transmitters for expansion of terrestrial coverage are now, not envisaged except some in border areas. As part of continuing schemes from 11th Plan, seven new TV Transmitter projects (HPTs-6, VLPT-1) are presently under implementation in the country. Besides projects of 40 digital HPTs are under implementation, out of which 4 transmitters (one each at Mumbai, Nagpur, Pune and Aurangabad) are to be set up in Maharashtra. The above transmitter projects are expected to be completed in phases, in about three years time.