

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2779
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2012
EXPANSION OF DD/AIR NETWORK
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has any scheme for expansion of the telecasting/ broadcasting services of Doordarshan (DD)/ All India Radio (AIR) including in hilly and inaccessible areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken during each of the last three years and the current year, State and DD/AIR-wise;
- (c) the details of TV transmitter projects commissioned in the said areas during that period, State and DD/AIR-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide special packages for the implementation of the said scheme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Gujarat?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI MANISH TEWARI)

(a) & (b) Prasar Bharati has reported that All India Radio is expanding the broadcasting services particularly in hilly and inaccessible areas of the country.

At present AIR has terrestrial coverage (primary) of 91.87% area of the country, which includes hilly and inaccessible areas. Also 21 radio channels (Programmes) of AIR are available through DD Direct plus DTH platform (Ku band) all over the country except Andaman and Nicobar Islands. These programmes can be received through a set top box on DTH Platform.

In order to further augment the terrestrial coverage in the country especially hilly and inaccessible areas, the schemes for up-gradation of power of 11 transmitters of AIR and installation of 132 additional FM Transmitters of various capacities have been undertaken during each of the last three years and the current year. The State-wise details of these AIR Projects/Schemes are given in Annexure-I & II.

As regards Doordarshan, there are, at present, 1415 TV transmitters in Doordarshan network providing coverage to about 92% population of the country, including a large segment of the population in hilly & inaccessible areas. All the areas uncovered by terrestrial transmission, alongwith rest of the country have been provided with multi channel TV coverage through Doordarshan's free-to-air DTH service "DD Direct Plus". There is no scheme for further expansion of Doordarshan Network in hilly & inaccessible areas, except for Projects for establishment of three high power TV transmitters; one each, in Kashmir, Jammu and Leh region and two high power TV transmitters at Rajouri, which are presently under implementation, as part of the scheme for expansion of AIR & DD coverage in Jammu & Kashmir. These were approved by the Government at a cost of Rs 100.00 crore.

(c) The State-wise details of AIR transmitter/ projects commissioned during the last three years and the current year are given in Annexure-III.

As regards Doordarshan, the details of TV transmitter projects commissioned in hilly & inaccessible areas during the last three years and the current year are given at the Annexure-IV.

(d) & (e) New schemes of All India Radio and Doordarshan proposed under the 12th Five Year Plan are yet to be approved by the Government.