

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2919
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2015
EDUCATIONAL CHANNELS
Sampath Shri Anirudhan;Simha Shri Prathap

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

- (a) the number of educational channels like Gyan Darshan and Gyan Vani being run by Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR) in the country;
- (b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that Gyan Darshan and Gyan Vani, the educational TV and FM channels are off the air;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the names of private cable operators who have discontinued the telecast of programmes of the above channels;
- (d) whether Government proposes to take any action against such operators and if so, the details thereof along with the corrective measures taken by the Government to start these channels; and
- (e) whether the Government has received proposals from various Ministries/ Departments/ PSUs to launch a separate educational DTH channels in the country, if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)

(a) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan(DD) does not have any educational channel. However, DD runs educational programmes provided by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), University Grants Commission (UGC) and Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET) for 30 minutes on DD National. Four Educational Channels were introduced namely Gyandarshan-1, Gyandarshan-2, Vyas Channel and Eklavya Channel. Out of these, Gyandarshan-1 & 2 have been run by the Education Media Production Centre (EMPC) of IGNOU. Vyas Channel is being managed by UGC and Eklavya by Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

AIR was operating Gyan Vani Channel of IGNOU through FM transmitters of IGNOU at 37 places in India.

(b) to (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that IGNOU used to uplink its channels on C-Band which was then taken by DD on the Freedish DTH of Prasar Bharati. Currently IGNOU does not have the Wireless Planning Coordination (WPC) clearance from the Ministry of Communications & IT. Hence, they are unable to uplink on C-Band. Therefore, DD is not in a position to downlink these channels on Freedish DTH and these channels are no longer available on DD Freedish DTH.

All India Radio was constrained to stop the operation of Gyan Vani FM Channels of IGNOU w.e.f 01.10.2014 due to discontinuation of payments to AIR by IGNOU from 01.04.2013 onwards, accumulating outstanding payment of Rs. 21.64 crores. However, IGNOU has approached concerned regulatory authorities for renewal of their operating licenses for resuming transmission. IGNOU has paid a major part of outstanding dues i.e. Rs.17.09 crores. Resumption of services by AIR depends upon finalization of mutually agreed terms and conditions.

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 8(1) of Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, the Ministry vide its Notification No.S.O.2693(E) dated 5.9.2013 notified certain channels of Doordarshan including Gyandarshan Channel to be compulsorily carried by cable operators. Therefore, it is obligatory on the part of cable operators to carry Gyandarshan Channel on their networks. The Scheme of enforcement envisaged under the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 is primarily through the authorized officers who are District Magistrate, Sub Divisional Magistrate and the Commissioner of Police of the State Government. Section 11 of the Act empowers Authorized officers to seize the equipment being used by the cable operators if they violate carriage of mandatory channels. Authorized officers can also file a complaint in writing before the concerned Court if they violate any provisions of the Act. The Court can take action as per Section 16 of the Act.

(e) This Ministry has received proposals from Ministry of Human Resource Development and Government of Gujarat seeking permission for launching educational DTH channels. In this regard, Ministry had sent a reference to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 31.10.2014 seeking its recommendation for use of DTH platform for non-commercial educational purposes by Central and State Government. TRAI has furnished its recommendation in the matter on 22.01.2015 which inter-alia recommended that the non-commercial use of DTH by the Central and State Government for educational purposes should be done through the Prasar Bharati route through suitable agreements between Prasar Bharati and the concerned Central/State Government. Policy making is a

dynamic process that is reviewed from time to time.