

Need to restart recording and broadcasting of Urdu Service Programmes by Akashwani-laid

SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH (KARAKAT): Concerns over the abrupt closure of the Urdu Service programmes by Akashwani, has had a detrimental impact within India and abroad. Urdu, being one of the 22 languages recognized in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, holds immense cultural and historical significance in our country. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs, began this vital service in 1965 to connect people, particularly between India and Pakistan, and to provide information to diverse communities in their mother tongue.

The abrupt discontinuation of these broadcasts in April 2023 driven by personal bias against the Urdu language, is an unjustifiable attack on our linguistic diversity. This move has deeply disturbed listeners, who continue to demand the restoration of these programmes. I strongly urge the government to immediately reinstate the recording and broadcasting of Urdu Service programmes, ensuring that this crucial service continues, as it serves as a source of proliferation of knowledge, and cultural preservation.