

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2947**

**(TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2025)**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF BIND SCHEME**

**2947. SHRI RAJU BISTA:**

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

- (a) the details of allocated funds utilized under the Broadcasting Infrastructure Network Development (BIND) scheme during each of the last five years;**
- (b) the details of projects initiated under said scheme to improve Doordarshan and All India Radio infrastructure particularly in West Bengal along with their current status;**
- (c) the specific measures taken by the Government to enhance accessibility and transmission quality of Doordarshan and All India Radio in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts; and**
- (d) the provisions of the scheme for local or regional content development to cater to linguistic and cultural diversity and if so, the details thereof?**

## **ANSWER**

### **THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

**(DR. L. MURUGAN)**

**(a) to (d)**

**Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme is a central sector scheme for development, modernization and upgradation of broadcasting infrastructure of Doordarshan and Akashvani in the country.**

- It is a pan-India initiative covering all States, including West Bengal**
- It includes modernization of transmitters and studios, expansion of DD Free Dish DTH platform and DD TV channels, and upgrading production & transmission facilities**
- Focuses on content generation and innovation, and expanding the reach of public broadcasting in strategic, border, and LWE-affected areas**
- ₹450 crore has been earmarked for content development and innovation across India for the period 2021-2026**
- Projects taken up in West Bengal under the scheme in Annexure-1**
- Details of funds utilised under the scheme on Annexure-2**

**Some of the new age initiatives undertaken to expand the reach of Doordarshan and All India Radio include:**

- **Prasar Bharati's OTT platform "WAVES" launched in 2024**
  - **Multi-genre digital streaming aggregator platform providing infotainment content in multiple Indian Languages**
  - **Various channels of Doordarshan and AIR network are integrated into this platform**
- **DD Free Dish (Free-to-Air Direct-To-Home)**
  - **Grown significantly from 104 channels in 2019 to 510 channels at present**
  - **Includes 92 private channels, 50 Doordarshan channels, and 320 educational channels.**
  - **48 Akashvani radio channels, including FM Gold, Rainbow, and Vividh Bharati, are available**

**By serving Indian audiences, including significant viewership in rural areas, these contribute to wider access to news, information, educational programming and also private channels.**

**Doordarshan Kendra (DDK) Kolkata is equipped with a state-of-the-art studio facility for programme production. In addition, DDK Shantiniketan and DDK Jalpaiguri have functional studio centres that cater to the production of local content.**

**Similarly, apart from Akashvani Kolkata, AIR stations at Siliguri, Kurseong, and Darjeeling are equipped with studio facilities to produce local and regional content.**

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**Annexure-1****Projects taken up under BIND Scheme in West Bengal:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
<b>All India Radio (AIR)</b>	<b>Setting up of a 100 W FM Transmitter at Alipurduar</b>
	<b>Setting up of 1 kW FM transmitter at Kalimpong</b>
	<b>Visual Radio System at Akashvani Kolkata</b>
	<b>Refurbishing of Studios at Kolkata and Kurseong</b>
	<b>Replacement of cooling Plant at Kolkata, Kurseong and Siliguri</b>
<b>Doordarshan (DD)</b>	<b>Modernization of Studio &amp; Regional News Units (RNU) facilities at DDK Kolkata with state-of-art digital equipment</b>
	<b>Modernization of Earth Station at Kolkata by augmentation &amp; replacement of satellite broadcast equipment</b>
	<b>Modernization of program production facilities to High Definition (HD) by providing state-of-art equipment</b>
	<b>Augmentation of news production equipment, including 4G/5G mobile news gathering systems</b>

**Annexure-2****Funds utilised under the scheme**

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Funds utilized (in ₹ Crore)</b>
<b>2020-21</b>	<b>201.65</b>
<b>2021-22</b>	<b>159.95</b>
<b>2022-23</b>	<b>163.75</b>
<b>2023-24</b>	<b>344.57</b>
<b>2024-25</b>	<b>213.72</b>