

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.

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

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

Annexure-2

Funds utilised under the scheme

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