

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2391
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2003
PILOT PROJECT ON T.V. THROUGH KU BAND
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had decided to establish a pilot project to provide 100 percent television coverage in the country through KU band.
- (b) if so, whether at present only 90 percent of the population and 77.7 percent of the total geographical area are covered and further expansion using the traditional `c` band was providing to be economically unviable;
- (c) if so, whether the Government also plans to establish community-wise reception centres under the said project; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) : Doordarshan coverage in satellite mode is available throughout the country. All Doordarshan channels can be received anywhere in the country through a dish antenna or cable network. Antenna required for receiving Doordarshan programmes in C band is large in area and costlier while cable service is not available in far-flung and sparsely populated areas.

Doordarshan coverage in terrestrial mode is presently available in about 78% area of the country comprising approximately 90% of the population. It was estimated by the Working Group for 10th Five Year Plan that a capital investment of nearly 400 crore would be required to cover remaining 10% of the population in terrestrial mode. To overcome these two obstacles i.e. huge cost of terrestrial coverage and dish antenna required for receiving C band transmission as well as unviability of cable networks in remote and sparsely populated areas, a scheme has been approved for setting up KU Band unlinking facilities which will enable TV homes in such areas to receive a bouquet of 30 free-to-air channels (20 Doordarshan and 10 private Channels) by using set top box and a small dish antenna.

The project also envisages distribution of 10,000 set top boxes to public institutions like Anganwadis, Schools, Public Health Centres, Panchayats, Youth Clubs, Cooperative Societies etc. in the NE Region and States of Himachal Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, and Gujarat where terrestrial coverage is less than the national average.