

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:227

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2005

EXPANSION OF A.I.R. AND DD COVERAGE

Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan;Mahato Shri Bir Sing

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to expand the coverage of All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD) to uncovered and underserved areas including backward and rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds earmarked for this purpose during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to reduce the uncovered and underserved areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIP. R. DASMUNSI)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 227 FOR ANSWER ON 8TH DECEMBER, 2005 REGARDING EXPANSION OF A.I.R. AND DOORDARSHAN COVERAGE

(a) to (d): All India Radio (AIR) has informed that the expansion of its coverage to hitherto uncovered and under-served places [including backward and rural areas] in the country is proposed to be carried out through the setting-up of stations/installation of transmitters in the various States and U.T. as contained in Annexure during the Tenth Five Year Plan period for which a provision of Rs.13,290 lakh (capital cost) has been earmarked. Besides, a number of radio stations are also proposed to be set up in the tribal and backward districts of various States during the Tenth Plan period, subject to approval and availability of funds. As of date, the existing radio coverage is 91.42% by area and 99.13% by population. After completion of the Tenth Plan schemes, this will further go up to 92.92% by area and 99.49% by population. Besides, the whole of the country is covered through short-wave signals.

Further, with the launch of the Doordarshan's Ku band (Free-to-air Direct-to-Home) transmission service from 16th Dec. 2004, its bouquet comprising, thirty-three T.V. (19 Doordarshan and 14 private channels) besides twelve A.I.R. channels are also available to the viewers/listeners throughout the country (except A&N Islands) which can be received with the help of a small sized dish receive unit. The approved cost of this project is estimated to be Rs.163.50 crore (figures provisional). While A.I.R. covers the whole Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Doordarshan's coverage, in its terrestrial mode, is estimated to be available to about 97% of the population of the Islands. As part of the expansion of radio services, a 10 kW FM A.I.R. transmitter at Port Blair has recently been commissioned.

Besides, the implementation of Phase II of Special Package for the North-East region (including Sikkim) and Island Territories, at an estimated total cost of Rs.393.95 crore (A.I.R. Rs..145.75 crore and Doordarshan Rs.248.20 crore) which is yet to be approved, would lead to increased coverage of DD and A.I.R. both in terms of area and population and also improve the quality of the programmes. This will also help cater to the information and entertainment needs of the linguistically and culturally rich and diverse region. Moreover, sixteen numbers of 10 kW Medium Wave Very Low Power Transmitters (VLPTs.) of Doordarshan are proposed to be installed in addition to the upgradation of six numbers of VLPTs. in A&N Islands. The N.E. Special Package also contemplates upgradation of the extant LPTs. of Doordarshan in Port Blair and Car Nicobar into High Power Transmitters.

In addition, under the J&K Special Package (Phase II) schemes, the Ku band transmission service of Doordarshan besides strengthening the Kashir channel is also envisaged at an estimated cost of Rs.300 crore.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 227 TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2005 REGARDING EXPANSION OF AIR AND DD COVERAGE

LIST OF STATIONS/ TRANSMITTERS PROPOSED IN X PLAN WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO EXTEND COVERAGE TO UNCOVERED AREAS

State S. No. Place Power

Arunachal Pradesh 1. Anini 1 kW FM
2. Bomidila 1 kW FM

Assam 3. Lunding 1 kW FM

Chhattisgarh 4. Dantewara 5 kW FM
5. Baikunthpur 5 kW FM

Himachal Pradesh 6. Shimla 10 kW FM - (interim set up
with 1 kW FM Tr. commissioned).

Jammu & Kashmir 7. Kargil 200 kW MW - Technically ready.
8. Diskit 1 kW FM - Technically ready.
9. Padum 1 kW FM - Technically ready.
10. Nyomarap 1 kW FM - Technically ready.

Karnataka 11. Sringeri 10 kW FM

L&M Island 12. Kavaratti 10 kW MW (Replacement of 1 kW
MW Tr.)

Maharashtra 13. Oras 5 kW FM

Mizoram 14. Champhai 1/5 kW FM
15. Tuipang 1/5 kW FM
16. Kolasib/Sarchip 1/5 kW FM

Nagaland 17. Kohima 10 kW FM
18. Tuensang 5 kW FM

Orissa 19. Deogarh 5 kW FM
20. Parlakhemundi 5 kW FM

Rajasthan 21. Ramgarh 20 kW FM
22. Chautan Hill 20 kW FM

Tripura 23. Longtherai 5 kW FM
24. Udaipur 1/5 kW FM
25. Nutan Bazar 1/5 kW FM

Uttar Pradesh 26. Najibabad 200 kW MW - (Replacement of
100 kW MW Tr.)

Uttaranchal 27. Bhageshwar 5 kW FM
28. Champwat 1 kW FM
29. Gairsen 1 kW FM
30. Rudraprayag 1 kW FM
31. Dharchula 1 kW MW
32. Haldwani 10 kW FM

West Bengal 33. Darjeeling 10 kW FM

And 150 number of Low Power FM Transmitters (of these 100 would be in North-East States).

