

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:631
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2006
INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

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

- (a) whether Doordarshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR) have installed equipment worth Rs. 143 crore for 34 projects under Direct To Home (DTH) but are unable to utilize it due to lack of trained manpower;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof ;
- (c) whether there has been a wide gap between desired number of trained manpower and the existing strength; and
- (d) if so, the remedial steps taken or being taken by the Government to provide trained staff to operate the equipment?

Answer

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

(a) and (b): No Sir. Doordarshan's Ku band (Free-to-Air DTH) transmission service 'DD Direct Plus' was approved with a capital cost of Rs. 53.80 crores (Works – Rs. 2.80 cr, Equipment – Rs. 51.00 cr.). Out of which till now Rs. 19.26 crores have been incurred on this project. Its bouquet comprising thirty-three TV and twelve Radio channels has been made fully operational since its launch on 16th Dec. 2004 with the existing trained manpower.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. There exists a gap between the desired number of trained manpower and the existing staff strength, all-out efforts are being made to secure the required staff. However, where there has been a shortage of manpower for operational and maintenance purposes, this has been overcome by resorting to redeployment of the existing staff from nearby centres.