

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3389  
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006  
REGIONAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES  
Satpathy Shri Tathagata

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

- (a) the criteria being followed for broadcasting programmes in regional languages by the External Services Division;
- (b) the number of languages in which External Services Division of All India Radio is broadcasting its programmes;
- (c) whether Oriya language has not been included so far under this programme;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to include Oriya language as there has been a great demand by the people of Orissa living abroad?

**Answer**

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

- (a): Prasar Bharati has informed that External Services Division of All India Radio (ESD:AIR) broadcasts programmes, both in foreign and Indian languages, depending on the requirement and availability of Indian population in the target areas.
- (b) & (c): Presently ESD:AIR broadcasts in 27 languages.
- (c), (d) & (e): Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that at present there is no proposal to introduce Oriya language programme from ESD:AIR since the definite number of Oriya population living outside India has not been estimated so far.