

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2185
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2004
DD/AIR PROGRAMME
Chandel Shri Suresh

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

- (a) whether the work of erection of HPT/LPT TV Transmitters has gone very slow ever since Prasar Bharati has been set up by the Ministry to speed up the work streamline the functioning and also expanding its network country-wide;
- (b) the total population which is still deprived of the AIR programmes in the country alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the justification of wastage of crores of rupee in the name of celebrating Platinum Jubilee by AIR instead of increasing its broadcast network;
- (d) if so, whether the target of making the programmes of All india Radio and Doordarshan available to cent percent population would be achieved with such slow pace of work;
- (e) if so, by when the target is likely to be achieved alongwith the reasons of delay therein; and
- (f) the steps being taken by the Government for achieving the target?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

- (a) After the formation of Prasar Bharati in November 97, Doordarshan have commissioned 479 additional transmitters. For further expansion of terrestrial coverage, 59 transmitter projects are presently under implementation in different parts of the country.
- (b) The present Radio coverage by AIR through MW and FM Transmitters is 99.13% by population which is expected to increase to 99.49% after implementation of 10th plan schemes. In addition to MW and FM Transmitters AIR also broadcasts through SW transmitters. Taking into account SW transmission services, 100% of the country by area and population is already covered by AIR.
- (c) The celebrations of Platinum Jubilee of All India Radio were held as part of Akashvani Annual Awards in Cuttack for which no additional funds were provided.
- (d), (e) & (f) Main thrust in 10th Plan is to provide TV coverage to uncovered areas through satellite transmission in Ku-band, which is expected to commence during 2004. With the commissioning of Ku- band transmission, it would be possible for the viewers in any part of the country (except A&N Islands) to receive 30 free to air TV channels with the help of a small sized dish antenna system.