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Title: Need to restore the functioning of LPTV centers in Ranaghat and Kalna in West Bengal.

SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL (KATWA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a very burning issue. It is a matter of great concern that the Union Government has taken decision to close down different TV relay centres of the country in the name of upgradation of LPTV/installation of high-power transmitter. Electronic media today being the most competitive and challenging broadcaster, the LPTV units in the different parts of the country should be used for spreading the voice of the local regional people.

In West Bengal, as I know, Prasar Bharati has decided to close down two LPT centres, namely Ranaghat and Kalna. I would like to inform the House that Krishi Darshan and other few programmes have become much popularized of these centres.

These LPTVs have been installed to give extensive coverage of terrestrial transmission in regional language and to uplift the rich heritage of local culture covering almost 99.13 per cent of the people in the largest democracy of the world.

Keeping in view the subjective regional programmes within the present infrastructure, I urge upon the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Department, Government of India to continue the LPTV centres with programmes of national interests and grass-root people without closing down the said existing centres. Thank you, Sir.