

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *199
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2023)

SETTING UP OF REGIONAL FM RADIO STATIONS

†*199. SHRI GOPAL JEE THAKUR:

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

- (a) whether the broadcast of Nepali and Chinese Frequency Modulation (FM) radio programmes are accessible in the border areas of the country particularly the Nepal border area which is not conducive for the security of the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government has taken any steps to set up Mithila Regional FM Radio Stations and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the amount of funds allocated for modernization of Darbhanga Akashwani out of the total amount of Rs. 2539 crores under the Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development Scheme; and**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to separately establish an FM transmitter by upgrading the transmission power of the dilapidated Darbhanga Radio Station so that the regional bulletin being broadcast from Patna may be broadcast from Darbhanga without any further delay and if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER
OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)**

(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. *199 FOR ANSWER ON 14.03.2023**

(a) to (d): External Services Division of All India Radio (AIR) is broadcasting in various languages including Chinese and Nepali in the regions close to border areas of the country. These programmes are broadcast in short wave and can also be accessed from the NewsOnAir App/website.

Prasar Bharati has informed that a scheme for setting up of 5 kW FM transmitter at AIR Darbhanga has been approved.

AIR Darbhanga has been allotted Rs. 15.28 crore out of the total amount of Rs. 2539 crores under the Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development scheme. The details are as under:

- 1. Installation of FM transmitter- Rs. 10.48 Crore.**
- 2. Refurbishing of Studios - Rs. 4.80 Crore.**

AIR Darbhanga currently broadcasts programmes in Hindi and Maithili language in medium wave and is also broadcasting the daily Maithali news bulletin produced by Regional News Unit of Patna.
