

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2255

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.09.2020)

NEWS PROGRAMME IN SANSKRIT LANGUAGE

**2255. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:
DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.:
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:
SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B.:**

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

- (a) whether All India Radio (AIR) news channel has started broadcasting its first ever news programme in Sanskrit language, if so, the details thereof and the objective behind the move along with the days and duration of the programme;**
- (b) whether DD News has completed five years of continuous telecast of Sanskrit News Magazine successfully and if so, the details thereof;**

- (c) whether the Government proposes to air and telecast more Sanskrit programmes and if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said decision is likely to be taken;**
- (d) whether the time slots allotted for regional news bulletins on Akashvani and Doordarshan are comparatively for lesser duration and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and**
- (e) the details of various steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the duration of news bulletins in regional languages and improving the same?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE;
MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF
HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAKASH
JAVADEKAR)**

a) Yes Sir. Prasar Bharati has started a 20 minutes Sanskrit weekly news programme “Saapthiki” on All India Radio from July 04, 2020, broadcast on every Saturday at 11.20 AM with a repeat broadcast on Sunday at the same time.

The programme explains the human values enshrined in Sanskrit literature, philosophy, history, art, culture and tradition. It also carries elements from prominent developments of the week.

b) Yes Sir. The Sanskrit News Magazine “Vaartavali” started on June 28, 2015 has successfully completed five years of continuous telecast on DD News.

c) No, Sir.

(d) & (e): Prasar Bharati is currently broadcasting News bulletins in 77 regional languages/local dialects on its All India Radio (AIR) network. A dedicated 24x7 multilingual Radio News Service has also been launched in Digital Radio DRM, DTH Satellite and Internet modes.

Further, Regional News bulletins are being telecast on various Regional Language Satellite Service (RLSS) Doordarshan Channels. News operations have been made automated at major DD Regional Kendras and news sets in studios have been revamped for enhancing look and feel of news telecast.

The time slots for regional news bulletins and news programmes have been adequately allocated, and are periodically reviewed. Time slots have been increased for News bulletins and current affairs programmes in various regional DD channels in recent past.

The improvement in news bulletins including in Regional News bulletins is a continuous process. All News Units of AIR and DD have been provided dedicated Digital Channels on platforms like YouTube to upload all bulletins and discussion programs in various languages. The NewsOnAir Digital Platform of Prasar Bharati available on Android and iOS aggregates these news bulletins by language from across all regions. Language specific news websites are also available via newsonair.com
