

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1035

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2022)

PROMOTING SOCIAL ISSUES THROUGH AIR

1035. SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:

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

- (a) the details and the number of All India Radio stations and satellite TV Channels through which initiative for promoting social issues like education have been taken by the Government in all the rural areas of all the States in the Country facing lack of online teaching and learning facilities during Corona pandemic;**
- (b) whether the Government is broadcasting any dedicated All India Radio stations and satellite TV channel;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government has any scheme for the future; and**

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Prasar Bharati is currently having 36 Doordarshan (DD) Channels originating from different parts of the country. In addition, there are 501 All India Radio (AIR) broadcasting centres which includes 230 centres with Studio Setup broadcasting various AIR channels across the country. These AIR and DD channels carry programmes on various social issues including education.

Prasar Bharati has 51 co-branded educational TV channels which have also been made available to the viewers of “DD FreeDish” a free-to-air DTH service, as per MoU signed with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics [(BISAG(N)], Ministry of Electronics & IT, Government of India. These channels can be viewed across the country free of cost with the help of a small sized dish and set-top box, which does not require any mobile connectivity. In addition, Gyanvani, a Radio Educational Channel of IGNOU, is also made available by Prasar Bharati on “DD FreeDish” to the listeners.

Prasar Bharati also broadcasts various programmes on AIR radio channels which cover topics relating to education, health and overall well-being of children which also cover students of rural areas.

Further, in order to provide learning opportunities in the present COVID-19 pandemic, time slots on various Regional Language Satellite Services Channels/ State Network channels of Doordarshan Network are provided to various State Governments/ State Government bodies as per their requests for telecasting Educational Programmes.
