

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5333**

**(TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2022)**

**REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL CHANNELS**

**5333. SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN:**

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

- (a) the details of the steps taken by the Government to offer localized/regional educational channels;**
- (b) the number of channels the Ministry proposes to start in Tamil to cover educational content;**
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to increase the recruitment of staff in regional centres for the creation of new channels and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government is planning to strengthen broadcast infrastructure with new technologies like multi-language options and interactive options for the educational channels, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) whether the Government will also provide educational channels in sign language for differently-abled students?**

## **ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (c): Prasar Bharati has made 51 co-branded educational TV channels available to the viewers on “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.**

**The Government has extended the 12 DTH TV Channels for School Education under PM eVIDYA One Class One Channel programme to 200 channels as per the Budget announcement 2022 to address the local/regional needs and aspirations specially to disseminate educational e-Contents in regional languages.**

**In addition, Gyanvani, a Radio educational channel of Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), is also made available by Prasar Bharati on “DD FreeDish” to the listeners.**

**(d): It is a constant endeavor of Doordarshan to modernize/upgrade Doordarshan infrastructure, which, inter alia, includes digitalization; adoption of new technologies at par with industry standards; replacement of old/ outlived equipment and their up-gradation etc. Schemes in this regard are formulated from time to time depending upon availability of resources and inter-se priorities.**

**(e): Programs in Indian Sign Language are already being telecast on 12 DTH TV Channels under PM eVIDYA-One Class, One Channel programme. These programmes are developed by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) in collaboration with India Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.**

**Prasar Bharati also carries sign language bulletins for hearing impaired persons daily on its DD News channel. In addition, Prasar Bharati also telecasts sign language versions of events of National importance on its channels.**

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