

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 5461

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.04.2022)

SERVICES OF DOORDARSHAN AND FM RADIO

5461. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering to shutdown 20 kilowatt high capacity Doordarshan Kendra set up in Saharsa, Bihar;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) whether the said Doordarshan Kendra was set up by the Government two decades ago to stop the frequency of Nepal in which programmes on DD-1 National are being aired on 20 kilowatt and on FM on 100 watt; and

(d) the reasons due to which the Government is not considering to replace 100 watt FM to 10 kilowatt by expanding its capacity so that the people of the remote and backward areas of Saharsa, Madhepura, Supaul, Khagaria and Darbhanga districts along with the people residing near international border can get the services of Doordarshan and FM radio?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND

MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR)

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The 20 kW High Power TV Transmitter at Saharsa, Bihar was sanctioned as part of 10th Plan scheme in year 2002 as a replacement/ upgradation of 100 W Low Power TV Transmitter in order to increase the coverage area/ population in the region.

In view of emerging trends in Broadcasting, and availability of “DD Free Dish” a free-to-air Direct to Home (DTH) Service of Prasar Bharati in the country carrying more than 150 TV channels including 51 educational channels free of cost without any monthly subscription, the Doordarshan Analog Terrestrial TV (ATT) Transmitters carrying only one channel have lost their relevance. The signals of “DD FreeDish” can be received in the country including areas of Saharsa, Madhepura, Supaul, Khagaria, Darbhanga and border areas bordering Nepal, with the help of small sized low cost dish receive units without any monthly subscription. Accordingly, Prasar Bharati has decided to phase out obsolete ATTs and so far, 1346 obsolete ATTs Transmitters including Doordarshan transmitter at Saharsa have been phased out barring 55 ATTs in strategic locations.

As far as AIR is concerned, a 100 W FM transmitter at Saharsa was commissioned on 12.01.2018 to provide FM coverage in the area. There is no approved scheme for replacing 100 W FM transmitter by 10 kW FM transmitter. Upgradation of transmitter at various places in the country depends upon inter-se-priority and the availability of resources.
