

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2895
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2025)

DTH and Other Communication Facilities in Rural/Tribal Areas

2895. SHRI GANESH SINGH

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the major barriers to access to cable TV, Direct to Home (DTH) and other communication facilities in rural/tribal areas;
- (b) if so, whether any special initiative or subsidy scheme is proposed by the Government for these areas; and
- (c) whether the Government has developed any specific monitoring mechanism on Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAM) or any other digital medium for resolving complaints received from citizens; and
- (d) if so, the details of complaints received and resolved during the last two years, district particularly Satna?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS**

(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) and (b):

Government has taken various initiatives to expand the reach of Cable TV, DTH, and other communication services in rural and tribal areas, including:

- 264 Community Radio Stations set up across India (since 2019) for community engagement, promoting local culture, and disseminating information.
- Prasar Bharati offers DD Free Dish service without any subscription fee, which has grown significantly from 104 channels in 2019 to 510 channels at present.
- OTT platform “WAVES” was launched in 2024, a multi-genre digital streaming aggregator that integrates Doordarshan and AIR network channels.

To improve the cable TV, DTH, and communication facilities in rural and tribal areas, the Government is also implementing focused measures under the Central Sector Scheme, Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) Scheme:

- Modernisation of broadcasting infrastructure, including transmitters, studios, and DTH platforms, to improve signal quality and coverage
- 510 free-to-air channels (up from 104 in 2019) through DD Free Dish, thereby removing cost barriers for underserved population
- ₹450 crore earmarked (2021–26) for developing region-specific and accessible content, promoting inclusivity and awareness

This has enabled wider access to news, information, and educational programming in rural/tribal areas.

(c) and (d): Grievances received from Satna district were addressed as per the inbuilt guidelines of the CPGRAMS portal.
