

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4590**

**(TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.08.2025)**

**BROADCASTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND NETWORK DEVELOPMENT**

**4590. DR. D RAVI KUMAR:**

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

- (a) whether any projects or schemes have been initiated under 'Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development' (BIND);**
- (b) if so, whether the BIND Scheme was approved for 2022–26 with a total outlay of Rs. 2,539.61 crore to modernize Doordarshan and All India Radio infrastructure including digitization, high-definition studios and FM expansion in border and tribal areas;**
- (c) whether over Rs. 900 crore has been allocated with Rs. 750+ crore spent on equipment upgrades, digital transmission and 8 new FM transmitters as of 2023–24;**

- (d) whether it is true that no major funds under BIND have lapsed, as per Ministry records and delays in tendering and infrastructure procurement have occasionally slowed disbursement but are being addressed through streamlined procurement and monitoring systems; and**
- (e) whether the scheme aims to improve public broadcasting reach especially in remote and underserved areas and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(DR. L. MURUGAN)**

**(a) to (e): Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme is a central sector scheme for development, modernization and upgradation of broadcasting infrastructure of Doordarshan and Akashvani in the country. BIND scheme for 2021-26 has been approved with a total outlay of Rs. 2539.61 crore.**

- It is a pan-India initiative covering all States**

- **It includes modernization of transmitters and studios, expansion of DD Free Dish DTH platform and DD TV channels, and upgrading production & transmission facilities**
- **Focuses on content generation and innovation, and expanding the reach of public broadcasting in strategic, border, and LWE-affected areas**

**As of the first quarter of FY 2025–26, Rs. 980.69 crore has been spent under the BIND scheme.**

**DD Free Dish is the country's only Free-to-Air Direct-To-Home (DTH) service that offers a range of television channels without subscription costs across the country. The number of channels on DD Free Dish has increased from 104 channels in 2019 to 510 channels currently, which includes 92 private channels, 50 Doordarshan channels and 320 Educational channels. Moreover, 48 Akashvani channels and popular channels like FM Gold, Rainbow & Vividh Bharati Service are also available on the DTH platform. By serving Indian audiences, including significant viewership in remote areas, it contributes to wider access to news, information, educational programming and also private channels.**

**The present terrestrial coverage of Akashvani is about 90% by geographical area and about 98% by population of the country. Apart from this, more than 260 Akashvani channels can also be listened through “NewsonAIR” app on mobile phones. Moreover, 59 new FM transmitters have been approved under BIND scheme for further improving public broadcasting reach.**

**Prasar Bharati has also launched its own OTT platform “WAVES” in 2024 which is a multi-genre digital streaming aggregator platform providing infotainment content. It is playing a key role in making information, education, and culture easily available to everyone. Various channels of Doordarshan and AIR network are also integrated into WAVES.**

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