

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2782

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2025)

EXPANSION OF DOORDARSHAN AND ALL INDIA RADIO

2782. SHRI THARANIVENTHAN M S:

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

- a) the details of steps taken by the Government during the last three years to expand Doordarshan and All India Radio (AIR) services across the country, particularly in Tamil Nadu;**
- b) whether the Government has identified coverage gaps in radio and television broadcasting in rural, hilly, coastal and border areas and the action taken by the Government to bridge these gaps;**
- c) the status of installation of new transmitters, towers, digital studios and FM channels under Prasar Bharati in Tamil Nadu;**
- d) whether the Government proposes to expand regional language broadcasting including more Tamil content on DD and AIR; and**
- e) the measures taken by the Government to ensure inclusive access to public broadcasting for educational, agricultural, cultural and emergency communication needs?**

ANSWER

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

(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) to (e): The Government has undertaken various measures for the expansion and modernization of Akashvani and Doordarshan Kendras (DDK) across all states.

The Kendras are being upgraded under the Central Sector Scheme Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND), approved with an outlay of ₹2,539.61 crore for 2021–26.

The Scheme focuses on digitalisation/modernisation of studios and transmitters, replacement of obsolete equipment, expansion of coverage and adoption of new broadcasting technologies.

Under BIND, transmitter upgrades, FM expansion and digitalisation projects are being undertaken to bridge coverage gaps in rural, coastal, hilly and border areas and to improve signal reach, reliability and quality.

During the last three years, some of the major projects taken up in Tamil Nadu under BIND Scheme are:

- **Commissioning of 20kW FM transmitter at Rameshwaram.**

- **Installation of 5 kW FM transmitter at Salem, Vellore and 10kW FM transmitter at Kumbakonam has been approved.**
- **Installation of Virtual Radio System at Chennai has been approved.**
- **Installation of Uplink Antenna System and UPS at Earth Station Chennai.**
- **Automation and modernization of Programme Production Facilities to High Definition (HD), Augmentation of New Production equipment, installation of active LED video walls in DDK Chennai**

Government of India launched the revamped DD Tamil channel on 19th January 2024. It is a 24x7 dedicated television channel being broadcast through satellite and terrestrial networks.

DD Tamil broadcasts programmes in Tamil language covering art, culture, literature, history, heritage, traditions, eminent personalities, and people-centric content. It also broadcasts news and current affairs related to the state of Tamil Nadu.

It is available in HD through DD Tamil HD, and both channels are carried on DD Free Dish, Prasar Bharati's free-to-air DTH platform.

Prasar Bharati also has a Memorandum of Understanding with Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG) for more than 300 co-branded educational channels to be made available via DD Free Dish DTH platform.

To further strengthen regional outreach, the DD Free Dish auction policy has been revamped, encouraging greater participation from regional channels. As a result, 28 regional language channels, including Tamil, have been onboarded on DD Free Dish from 1st April, 2025.

Government of India has also established 17 Akashvani channels in Tamil Nadu. Live streaming of Akashvani channels in Tamil Nadu is also available through the “NewsOnAIR” mobile app.

Akashvani stations across Tamil Nadu promote Tamil programming through their respective social media handles. DD Tamil promos are also broadcast as cross channel publicity on the FM network across the state.

Prasar Bharati's OTT platform "WAVES" also hosts Tamil language content, including news, current affairs, cultural and entertainment programmes.

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