GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 500
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2025)

ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL-FLEDGED DOORDARSHAN CHANNEL AND AKASHVANI PROGRAMME FOR SANTHALI LANGUAGE

500. SHRI KALIPADA SAREN KHERWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to establish a full-fledged Doordarshan channel dedicated to programmes in Santhali Language and to enhance Akashvani (All India Radio) broadcasts in Santhali Language;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the proposed timeline for launching such initiatives;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the demand from Santhali-speaking regions of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha and Assam for regular television and radio broadcasting in their own language and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the absence of a full-fledged Doordarshan and Akashvani service for Santhali language, despite it being included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution?

<div align="center">**ANSWER**</div>

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

<div align="center">**(DR. L. MURUGAN)**</div>

(a) to (d): Doordarshan telecasts Santhali content/ programmes through DD Jharkhand, DD Assam, DD Bangla and DD Odia channels.

Akashvani Stations located in regions with a significant Santhali speaking population also regularly broadcast programmes in Santhali language. These programmes are being broadcast in West Bengal from Akashvani Kolkata, Murshidabad and Shantiniketan.

Akashvani Ranchi and Chaibasa in Jharkhand, Akashvani Bhagalpur in Bihar and Akashvani Baripada and Keonjhar in Odisha are also regularly broadcasting programmes in Santhali.

In addition, Regional News Unit, Kolkata also produces a news bulletin in Santhali which is carried by Akashvani, Kolkata on its Primary Channel.

The Government regularly reviews the reach, audience feedback and demand patterns from society to strengthen the availability and accessibility of content in languages recognized in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.

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