

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3072

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2026)

BROADCASTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND NETWORK DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

3072. SHRI MALAIYARASAN D:

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

- (a) the objectives and scope of Prasar Bharati's Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme;
- (b) the manner in which the BIND scheme aims to modernize broadcasting infrastructure and enhance the reach of Doordarshan and All India Radio across the country;
- (c) the manner in which the BIND scheme contributed to improving the quality and reach of broadcasting services provided by Doordarshan and All India Radio;
- (d) the details of measures undertaken under the scheme to provide High-Definition (HD) and digital services to rural and remote areas;
- (e) whether the BIND scheme include provisions for the development of regional content to cater to diverse linguistic and cultural audiences; and
- (f) if so, the mechanisms put in place to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the BIND scheme?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) to (f): 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, a pan-India initiative covering all States, has been approved with a total outlay of Rs. 2539.61 crore for 2021-26. It includes setting up and modernization of transmitters and studios, expansion of DD Free Dish DTH platform and DD TV channels, and upgrading production & transmission facilities. It focuses on content generation and innovation, and expanding the reach of public broadcasting in strategic, border, and LWE-affected areas.

The implementation of projects under BIND scheme are regularly monitored by Prasar Bharati and the Ministry.

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.
