

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3211

(TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.03.2026)

TRANSMISSION AND COVERAGE OF AIR AND DOORDARSHAN IN BASTAR

3211. SHRI MAHESH KASHYAP:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the inadequate number of permanent centers/relay centers of All India Radio (Akashvani) and Doordarshan in the Bastar Lok Sabha Constituency of Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the details of transmission capacity and coverage area of All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD) centers/relay stations currently operational, location-wise including the Jagdalpur, Dantewada, Sukma, Bijapur, Narayanpur and Kondagaon district under the Bastar Lok Sabha Constituency of Chhattisgarh;
- (c) whether it is a fact that clear broadcast of All India Radio and Doordarshan programmes is unavailable or the signals are extremely weak in several remote, tribal and Naxal-affected areas of Bastar;
- (d) whether any proposal is under consideration by the Government to set up new All India Radio and Doordarshan centers, FM/Low Power Transmitters (LPTs) or Digital Transmission Units in the Bastar region;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the budget allocated and the timeline proposed; and
- (f) the special measures being adopted by the Government for the effective dissemination of programmes in local tribal dialects (Gondi, Halbi, Bhatra etc.) and for broadcasting messages related to education, health, disaster management and security in the Bastar region?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) to (f): Akashvani operates 4 stations in Bastar, Chhattisgarh. These comprise a full-fledged station at Jagdalpur equipped with a 100 kW Medium Wave (MW) transmitter and a 100 W FM transmitter, along with three 100 W FM relay stations located at Narainpur, Bailadila and Konta. The MW transmission from Akashvani Jagdalpur covers the entire Bastar Parliamentary Constituency, while the FM transmitters at Jagdalpur, Narainpur, Konta and Bailadila provide coverage within a radius of about 10–20 km.

To further augment coverage of FM broadcast in the Bastar region, 4 new FM transmitters have been approved for installation at a combined cost of Rs. 39.70 crore under the Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme for 2021 – 26. These include a 10 kW FM transmitter at Jagdalpur, 5 kW FM transmitters at Narainpur & Bailadila each, and 1 kW FM transmitter at Kondagaon.

Further, DD Chhattisgarh is a 24×7 dedicated Doordarshan channel for the State of Chhattisgarh, telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Raipur. It broadcasts programmes related to art, culture, heritage, literature, traditions, people, eminent personalities, news and current affairs of the entire State, including the Bastar region. DD Chhattisgarh also regularly telecasts programmes and news related to various Government schemes and their implementation. In addition, programmes produced by the Programme Generating Facility (PGF) at Jagdalpur are specifically tailored to the needs of local tribal communities and are telecast regularly on DD Chhattisgarh.

Doordarshan's Free-To-Air Direct-to-Home (DTH) service "DD Free Dish" is available throughout the country, including remote, tribal and Naxal-affected areas of Bastar. Apart from all Doordarshan channels (including DD Chhattisgarh), several Akashvani channels, private TV channels and educational channels are also available on DD Free Dish.

In addition, more than 260 Akashvani channels are available on mobile phones through the “NewsOnAir” mobile app. Prasar Bharati has also launched its OTT platform “WAVES” in 2024, a multi-genre digital streaming aggregator providing infotainment content. Various channels of the Doordarshan and Akashvani networks are also integrated into the WAVES platform, making information, education and cultural content easily accessible to the public across the country.
