

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION No.881
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026)

**BUDGETARY SUPPORT AND EXPANSION OF BROADCASTING INFRASTRUCTURE
IN ODISHA**

881. SHRI SUKANTA KUMAR PANIGRAHI:

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

- a) the details of budget allocations for the year 2026–27 for Prasar Bharati/Doordarshan Kendras and Community Radio Stations including Radio Muskan in the State of Odisha;
- b) the details of new FM transmitters, digital upgradation initiatives and content production in tribal languages such as Kui undertaken under schemes including the Supporting Community Radio Movement;
- c) the number of Community Radio Stations supported in Odisha including Kandhamal district, during the year 2025–26 along with the details of equipment grants and capacity-building or training provided; and
- d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to address gaps in digital and radio broadcasting coverage in remote areas of the Kandhamal Lok Sabha Constituency for rural empowerment, public awareness of Government schemes and inclusive communication?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(DR. L. MURUGAN)

(a) to (d):

The allocation for Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development (BIND) scheme for development, modernization and upgradation of broadcasting infrastructure of Prasar Bharati for FY 2026-27 is ₹509.24 cr. Further, the allocation under scheme for Supporting Community Radio Movement (CRS) in India for the year 2026-27 is ₹8 cr.

The Government has sanctioned the establishment of 68 new Akashvani FM transmitters across the country under the BIND Scheme for 2021-26. The digital upgradation of Akashvani in Odisha includes new FM transmitters at Bonaigarh (1 kW) and Baleshwar (5 kW), upgradation of FM transmitters at Baripada, Bhawanipatna and Sambalpur from 5 kW to 10 kW, and upgradation at Rairangpur from 1 kW to 5 kW.

Akashvani broadcasts programmes in 23 languages, including Odia and Santhali, and in 182 dialects, including tribal dialects such as Kui. The primary channel of Akashvani, Bhawanipatna, located in Kalahandi district of Odisha, broadcasts tribal songs and programmes, including in the Kui dialect.

Under the scheme “Supporting Community Radio Movement in India”, 4 CRS in Odisha have been supported during FY 2025–26, namely, Radio SWATI, Radio Adar, Radio Utkal and Radio Dhenkanal. Grants of ₹ 36,67,246 have been provided to them for the procurement of equipment such as FM transmitters, audio recorders, audio processors and studio infrastructure.

All India Radio (AIR) operates 591 broadcasting stations across the country, including 2 FM Relay Stations located at Baliguda and Phulbani in the Kandhamal Lok Sabha Constituency.

Some of the new-age initiatives undertaken to enable users to access regional and national content anytime and anywhere on their mobile devices include -

- Prasar Bharati's OTT platform “WAVES” launched in 2024
 - Multi-genre digital streaming aggregator platform providing infotainment content in multiple Indian Languages
 - Various channels of Doordarshan and AIR network are integrated into this platform
- DD Free Dish (Free-to-Air Direct-To-Home)
 - Grown significantly from 104 channels in 2019 to 510 channels at present
 - Includes private and educational TV channels, besides the Doordarshan channels.
 - 48 Akashvani radio channels
- NewsOnAir App
 - Streaming of more than 260 live radio channels of Akashvani.
