

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*209
(TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.03.2021)

SANSKRIT NEWS ON DOORDARSHAN CHANNEL

***209. SHRI P. WILSON:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to telecast Sanskrit news every day on Doordarshan channel across the country, including Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any survey on the number of people who know the Sanskrit Language in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received any objections/complaints on telecasting of Sanskrit news across the country, including Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE; MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA
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(a) & (b): Prasar Bharati as a public service broadcaster has a mandate to promote all Indian languages and accordingly, broadcasts programmes and news in these languages. To fulfil this policy, DD News is telecasting Sanskrit news bulletin “Vaarta” (daily) and Sanskrit news magazine “Vaartavali” (weekly) across the country including Tamil Nadu. All India Radio has also been broadcasting Sanskrit news bulletin daily on its network across the country since 1974. These are available on more than hundred stations of All India Radio. A weekly news magazine programme called “Sanskrit Saptahiki” has also been started from 4th July, 2020.

(c) & (d) A complaint was received from Shri Muthu Kumar, Advocate from Madurai, Tamil Nadu regarding telecasting of Sanskrit News in Doordarshan Podhigai, followed by a Writ Petition filed by the Petitioner in the Madurai Bench of Hon’ble High Court of Madras on 17.12.2020. The Hon’ble High Court of Madras disposed off the Writ Petition in favour of the Government stating the news read in Sanskrit hardly takes a fraction of the entire day and it is a matter for the Government to decide.
