

**Binoy Viswam**

Member of Parliament  
(Rajya Sabha)



116, North Avenue  
New Delhi - 110 001

Mob: 96057667022

E-mail: binoyviswam55@gmail.com

**To**  
**Shri Prakash Javadekar**  
**Minister of Information and Broadcasting**  
**Government of India**

**Date:** 09.11.2020

**Respected Shri Prakash Javadekar ji,**

There has been a concerted effort by Prasar Bharti to close down government-financed means of information dispensation both at the regional and national level. First such action was taken in 2017, where 769 television channels were closed down. Now, radio stations are being targeted similarly. The Government claims that it is no longer economical to run these operations. It is of the opinion that these means are substitutable by the information dispensation through internet websites.

It is a privileged and misinformed opinion that everyone can access internet services efficiently at any time of the day. Access varies with respect to financial, social and geographical context and these barriers should not be ignored. This misinformed expectation will leave a large no. of people deprived of information and knowledge on regional affairs and cultures. When this issue was previously raised to I&B ministry the Prasar Bharti was directed to stop these inconsiderate actions. Now, they are using indirect means for cost-cutting. AIR Alleppey has been their latest target. They have had a technical problem in their transmitter due to which they are unable to continue their broadcasting services and have filed official requests to replace the transmitter. Prasar Bharti is using the excuse of unavailability of parts in denying the request and has ordered to decommission the AIR Alleppey transmitter. Employment of 21 technical staff employed there is under threat. Additionally, this sets up terrible precedence of denying assistance to regional centres and will be further used to shut down stations in smaller areas in future. Similar orders have been passed in Jalandhar and Gorakhpur and short wave transmitters have already been closed down at places like Aligarh and Panji. Spare parts of such transmitter are available with Bharat Electronics. The incremented cost is being used as an excuse to not buy these parts. Significance of Information and conversations should not be seen from an economical perspective as the qualitative benefits of getting access to such conversation goes far beyond any profit-cost scale.

I request your immediate intervention in the matter and urge you to direct Prasar Bharti to procure and supply the necessary parts to repair the transmitter at AIR Aleppey so that they can continue broadcasting their services.

Yours sincerely

**Binoy Viswam**

Leader of CPI Parliamentary Party &  
Secretary, National Council