

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Oberoi Group of Hotels in the Capital do not serve any prohibited Veal as specified in the Schedule to the Delhi Agricultural Cattle Preservation Act, 1994. However, they procure buffalo Veal from local suppliers of meat in Delhi and adjoining areas.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. It is a State subject.

[Translation]

Allocation of funds to Producers

3362. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for allocation of funds to the private producers for the production of serials and documentary films;

(b) the quality of these programmes alongwith the details of profit and loss to the Government during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to privatise the Doordarshan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Producers of the commissioned programmes are given lumpsum amount keeping in view the budget details submitted by them alongwith their proposal and as approved by the Costing Committee.

(b) The quality of the programmes produced by outside commissioned producers has been found to be of high professional standards by and large. Since Doordarshan is paying the cost of production to the producers, the question of profits & losses does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Commission on problems of sugarcane growers

3363. DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to appoint a commission to go into the various aspects of the problems faced by the cane growers and sugar industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. There is no proposal to appoint a Commission to go into the various aspects of the problems faced by the cane growers and sugar industries in the country. These aspects are being monitored by the Central Government in collaboration with the State Governments.

Creamy Layer

3364. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a legislation to do away with the the Creamy Layer in the Reservation for Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to overcome the ceiling of 50% in the Reservation for Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes imposed by the Supreme Court;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose for the proportional Reservation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The issue is under examination.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Special Ration Card

3365. DR. C. SILVERA :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether States and Union Territories have been asked to identify the population below the poverty line and issue special ration cards to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the criteria laid down for such identification;

(c) whether information furnished by the card holders at the time of recent renewal process will also be taken into consideration to identify the Population below Poverty line:

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) if not, reasons therefor;

(f) whether any time bound programme is proposed to be undertaken in this regard;

(g) if so, details thereof; and

(h) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (h). The Government proposes to restructure Public Distribution System with focus on the poor. This proposal has been welcomed by the States. The proposal calls for identification of persons below the poverty line and the State Governments have been impressed upon the need to do it as and when the scheme is finalised and formal orders issued for implementation.

Air Service to District Headquarters

3366. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:
SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments of West Bengal and Bihar have approached the Union Government for starting flights for connecting the State capitals with the District Headquarters by airways;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether other State Governments have also approached the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (e). No specific proposal has been received by the Government of India to airlink all the district headquarters. However, to ensure that air transport services grow in a balanced manner throughout the country, route dispersal guidelines have been issued requiring operators of

trunk routes to provide defined minimum capacity in the North East, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshwadeep Islands. Regional airlines are being encouraged to airlink far flung and hitherto unconnected districts and towns.

Promotion of Cultural Tourism

3367. SHRI K.V. SURENDRA NATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to promote the cultural tourism by getting the services of some institutions in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Promotion of cultural tourism is one of the major objectives of the Department of Tourism. The various State/ Union Territory Governments are extended financial assistance to organise fairs and festivals directly and also be obtaining the services of various cultural organisations/ Institutions.

Cellular Phone Service

3368. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DOT has fixed any maximum and minimum charges for cellular phone services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the rates currently charged by each of the cellular phone service companies;

(d) whether the cellular phone service companies have announced a drastic reduction in the rates;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The Govt. has fixed a ceiling tariff for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service. The Cellular operators can not charge above the ceiling tariff. No minimum charge have been fixed for Cellular Mobile Telephone Services.

(b) The Ceiling tariffs are given in the *Statement* enclosed.

(c) The information regarding current rates being charged by each of the 8 cellular operators in 4 Metro cities, is being collected.