

Air Station Functioning without Directors

2994. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of A.I.R. stations functioning without Station Directors and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is considered necessary that the Station Director should know the language of the area where they are posted;

(c) if so, whether there are instances of postings of the Station Directors not familiar with the language of the area of their posting; and

(d) the steps contemplated to ensure that non-familiarity of a Station Director with the local language does not affect the quality of programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) At present, there are 42 vacancies in the grade of Station Director in All India Radio. However, there are only four AIR Stations which are functioning without Station Directors. These are AIR Stations at Jabalpur, Kurseong, Panaji and Sambalpur. The post of Station Directors are vacant primarily because of non-availability of direct recruit panel from the UPSC. The post of Station Director at AIR, Panaji could not be filled up due to stay on the transfer of a Station

Director granted by Central Administrative Tribunal.

(b) and (c). The post of Station Director in A.I.R. is a supervisory post and it is not considered necessary for the Station Director to know the language of the area although the knowledge of the language does give some added advantage.

(d) The programme production at the Station is primarily done by programme Executives, Producers and some other officers of that level and the posting of a non-language Station Director does not in any way affect the quality of programme Broadcast by A I.R. Stations.

Smuggling of Gold and Silver

2995. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an enormous rise in the smuggling of gold and silver during 1989-90;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to check this smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). The quantity and value of gold and silver seized during the years 1989 and 1990 (upto February) are given in the table below:-

Year	Gold		Silver	
	Quantity (in Kgs.)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)	Quantity (in Kgs.)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1989	8215	25,960	99,322	6,757
1990*	535	1,968	57,488	4,049

*Figures are provisional.

The increase in the value of seizures need not necessarily mean a spurt in smuggling activities and it could be due to intensified anti-smuggling work.

(c) Anti-Smuggling drive has been intensified and the anti-smuggling machinery particularly in the vulnerable areas of sea coast, land borders and the international seaports and airports remain alert to check and combat smuggling of contraband. Sophisticated anti-smuggling equipment such as : X-ray baggage machines and metal detectors are utilised for prevention and detection of gold concealed on person of passengers and their baggage/in-cargo. Close co-ordination is maintained with all the agencies concerned in the prevention and detection of smuggling.

[English]

Grant of Ad-Hoc Bonus to Central Government Employees

2996. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enhance the eligibility limit for the grant of ad-hoc bonus to Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when Government propose to take a final decision in the matter; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHUDANDAVATE): (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration. A decision will be taken in due course taking the various factors into consideration.

Construction of Yatri-Niwas at Kapil Muni Ashram in West Bengal

2997. PROF. RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take steps to construct Yatri Niwas at Kapil Muni Ashram to accommodate pilgrims during the Sagar Mela in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). Government of India has sanctioned construction of Yatrika at Gangasagar, which is the place of Kapil Muni Ashram, through Bharatiya Yatri Avs Vikas Samiti. The Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 17.57 lakhs as 90% contribution of estimated cost and released an amount of Rs. 5.00 lakhs to Bharatiya Yatri Avs Vikas Samiti.

Gold Mines

2998. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new gold mines found in different parts of the country during the last year;

(b) the quality of gold found; and

(c) the estimated quantity of gold which will be available to the country after purification?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) The Geological Survey of India after investigations last year, established gold ore reserves in six prospects.