

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are as under:

Ballia District

All the 20 Telephone exchanges have been replaced by modern Electronic Exchanges of suitable capacity.

Devariya District

Out of 26 total Telephone Exchanges, 7 have already been replaced by modern Electronic Exchanges of suitable capacity. Sixteen Telephone Exchanges have been planned for modernisation and expansion during 1992-93 and remaining 3 in 1993-94.

[English]

International Electronic Media in the Country

598. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether several international electronic media have been 'invading' Indian skies of late;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to project Doordarshan to meet this challenge; and

(c) the time by which the Government proposes to take concrete steps in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS):

(a) Reception of Foreign TV programmes through satellites is available in various parts of the country.

(b) and (c). Constant efforts continue to be made to bring about a qualitative improvement in the programme format of

Doordarshan so as to sustain the interest of its viewers. Arrangements have been made for reception of Doordarshan programmes outside India in the neighbouring countries with a dish antenna. Discussion and study are continuing to further extend the area of transmission of India programmes.

Persons Killed by Militants in Uttar Pradesh

599. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons killed by militants in Uttar Pradesh during the period from June to October, 1991.

(b) the number of militants killed as a result of police action during the said period; and

(c) the total amount provided by the Government as compensation to the families of the people killed by the militants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Telephone Connections in Bangalore

600. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:
SHRI P.C. MUDALA GIRI-
YAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections sanctioned during the months January and February 1991, in Bangalore;

(b) whether telephone connections have been provided;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which telephone connections are likely to be provided there?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) During the period January and February 1991, 1908 telephone connections were sanctioned in Bangalore;

(b) and (c). Out of 1908 telephone connections sanctioned, 1882 telephone connections have since been installed.

(d) Out of these 26 telephone connections pending, 15 are pending due to being technically non-feasible and 11 are pending due to reasons such as party not available or party wanting change of address, etc.

(e) The 15 technically not feasible connections are likely to be provided in about 3 months' time. However, the time that will be taken for cases pending due to subscribers' reasons, depends on completion of formalities by these subscribers.

Transfer of Newsprint from one Publication to Other

601. SHRI CHHITUBHAI
GAMIT:
SHRI DIGVIJAYA
SINGH:

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

(a) whether any group of newspapers can transfer the allotted newsprint from one publication to the other;

(b) if not, what rule does it contravene;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding the transfer of newsprint, during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) action taken by the Government

against them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARIGIRJAVYAS):

(a) and (b). Yes, in terms of the relevant Newsprint Control Order, 1962, subject to transfer by way of loan for a period not exceeding three months, provided the transferee and the transferer give intimation of the transfer within thirty days thereof to the Controller.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

Vividha Bharati Commercial Relay Centres in the Country

602. SHRI M.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of "VIVIDHA BHARATI" commercial relay centres in the country, state-wise;

(b) whether there is any policy of the Government to establish such centres;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

(d) whether there is any proposal to establish commercial relay centre at Visakhapatnam 'B' centre during the current years; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARIGIRJAVYAS):

(a) There are 30 Vividha Bharati cum commercial broadcasting centres in the country. The details are given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c). Locations for establishing Vividha Bharati centres are determined on the basis of the size of potential audience in the coverage areas of the proposed centre and market potential of the centre for yielding