

(b) the projects which were completed during the prescribed time-period and the projects which are still lying incomplete;

(c) the projects which have not been started so far;

(d) the details of the funds allotted for these projects; and

(e) the expenditure incurred on each of these projects so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (e). The information is being collected from the State Government.

[English]

#### T.V. Serial on Shivaji

5768. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast TV serial depicting life of Shivaji;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Doordarshan is not telecasting serials on great patriots on Prime Time;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) details of serials of patriots planned for telecast during 1994-95 at Prime Time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b). There is no such proposal at present.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Currently serials on Mahadji Scindia and Akbar are being telecast.

#### Films Purchased by Doordarshan

5769. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Cinematographic Films purchased by Doordarshan during the last three years, year-wise, alongwith the names of suppliers of those films;

(b) the amount paid for each film, the dates of their application and telecast on Doordarshan;

(c) the policy of the Government to purchase films for Doordarshan;

(d) whether the Government has set up a Committee of professionals for the purchase of quality films in Hindi, English and regional languages for the current/next year, and if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total number of films proposed to be purchased during the next year and funds allocated for the purpose;

(f) whether the Government have received representation regarding favouritism and irregularities in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No Cinematographic film was purchased by Doordarshan during this period.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no Government policy for the purchase of films by Doordarshan.

(d) to (g). Do not arise.

#### **New Channels**

5770. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start 21 new channels of the Doordarshan in the near future;

(b) whether the existing five Channels are telecasting programmes of inferior quality; and

(c) the reasons for increasing the number of Doordarshan Channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir. There are a number of proposals on which Doordarshan is experimenting on the 5 transponders of INSAT 2B.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The new channels of Doordarshan were introduced in order to

provide programming to cater to the diverse interests of the widest cross section of its viewers.

#### **Staff Strength In Regional Passport Offices**

5771. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been consistent demand for increase in staff strength of Regional Passport Offices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken and proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the increase in the work load of approximately 160% since 1980 when the cadre strength was last revised, the need for a proportionate increase in staff strength has been felt. Four hundred additional posts were sanctioned in 1992. This does not, however, meet the entire need for additional staff for Passport Offices. It is intended to propose the creation of further additional posts shortly.

#### **Import of Switching Equipment**

5772. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DOT had floated a tender for importing two lakh lines of switching equipment on a one time import basis during 1991-92;