

[Translation]

#### Advertisement Rates

214. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN:  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:  
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

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

(a) whether the rates of the Government advertisements issued to various newspapers are much lower than the commercial rates charged by the concerned newspapers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any request to increase the rates of payment at which advertisements are issued to various newspapers; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) & (b) Yes Sir. Government rates have been worked out in accordance with a formula devised by Rate Structure Committee. The rates so worked out under the formula are applied uniformly in relation to circulation of the newspaper.

(c) & (d) Yes Sir. The Rates Structure Committee appointed by the Government in 1991 submitted its report to the Government on 30.9.93 and the same is under active consideration.

#### DD Transmitters and Transposers in M.P.

215. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Doordarshan transmitters and transposers functioning in Madhya Pradesh as on October 30, 1994;

(b) whether the Doordarshan network programmes are available throughout the State;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken for extension of network programmes throughout the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) 58 TV transmitters of various power ratings and one transposer are functioning in the State of Madhya Pradesh as on 30.10.1994.

(b) TV service, at present, is terrestrially available to an estimated 64.6% area of Madhya Pradesh which includes fringe areas where TV reception is available with the help of boosters and antennae. The satellite service is available to the entire State of Madhya Pradesh with the help of suitable dish antenna system.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) With a view to strengthen terrestrial TV service in the State, 34 TV transmitters of various powers are presently under implementation envisaged to be set up subject to availability of adequate resources and necessary infrastructural facilities at various locations in the State.

[English]

#### Guidelines on Adoption

216. SHRIMATI KRISHNEN KAUR (DEEPA):  
SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA:  
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:  
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 164 on August 4, 1994 regarding guidelines on adoption and state:

(a) whether the Government have since finalised the revised guidelines on adoption of children;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which these are likely to be finalised and issued?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) No Sir. The revised guidelines on adoption are under consideration of the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

#### Plague Publicity

217. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints against Indian Press, Doordarshan and All India Radio for giving an unrealistic and blown up publicity to plague in India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to guide the press and electronic media to have a realistic approach on national issues and problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Some communications were received by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare about the media presenting exaggerated reports in this regard.

(b) Both All India Radio and Doordarshan provide factual information based on official reports taking all due care when reporting on national issues and problems. So far as the Press is concerned, the Government, as a matter of policy for maintaining freedom of the Press do not interfere in their functioning. However, the Press Council of India had issued an appeal to the Press for checking up the facts thoroughly from authentic sources before publishing the news relating to plague, etc.