

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of foreign investment expected therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Regional DD Service

8151. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether satellite based regional services have been provided by Doordarshan in some States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, names of such States and Territories;

(c) the estimated number of persons benefited by these services;

(d) whether the Government propose to extend this service to some other States and Union Territories also;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Satellite based regional services are in the following States :—

Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, West Bengal, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, U.P., Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and North- Eastern States.

(c) No specific study about size of the audience of regional language programmes has been undertaken.

(d) to (f) No Sir, Presently no transponder is available to extend regional language satellite services.

[Translation]

Accident of Giani Zail Singh

8152. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN :
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the circumstances under which former President Giani Zail Singh injured seriously in road accident on 29th November, 1994; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) The Government of Punjab instituted an Inquiry which was conducted by Principal Secretary (Deptt. of Home Affairs and Justice), Government of Punjab into the incident of 29th November, 1994 in which Giani Zail Singh was injured in a road accident. As per the report, Giani Zail Singh left Punjab Raj Bhavan at about 11.25 AM on 29.11.1994 for Anandpur Sahib in the bullet-proof car provided to him. On the return journey for Ropar/Chandigarh, after travelling about 5-6 Kms. from Kiratpur towards Ropar, the pilot gypsy in the carcade of the VIP which was 50-60 yards ahead from the VIP vehicle had signalled to the driver of the truck (PBI 1275) which was coming from the opposite direction to give way for the VIP car. The driver of the truck vacated the metalled portion of the road and got on the kucha portion which was 6 inches below the level of the road. It appears that the driver of the truck applied brakes and skidded but lost control over the vehicle as a result of which the truck swerved and hit the right front side of the VIP's bullet-proof car, which caved in towards the steering wheel. All the four occupants of the car namely Giani Zail Singh, his nephew Basant Singh, driver Devinder Singh and SI Dharamvir Singh of Delhi Police, PSO of Giani Zail Singh were injured in the accident. They were immediately taken to the Civil Hospital, Ropar and there-after to PGI, Chandigarh. The Deputy Commissioner and SSP, Ropar accompanied the injured to PGI, Chandigarh where all of them were admitted for further treatment. Inquiry Officer has concluded that it was a sudden accident. Interrogation of the truck driver and investigations about the owner of the truck have not revealed anything incriminating which would point a finger towards possibility of sabotage by terrorists.

[Translation]

Speed Post in Maharashtra

8153. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the districts in Maharashtra, where Speed Post Service has been introduced; and

(b) the action being taken by the Government to introduce this service in the remaining districts also ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Speed Post Service has been introduced in the following districts of Maharashtra :—