

SHRI P.K. THUNGON:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

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

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to set up autonomous bodies for Doordarshan and All India Radio;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A bill to set up an autonomous broadcasting Corporation is being introduced in this session of Parliament.

[English]

C&AG's Report on Export Processing Zones

10. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) in its report on Union Government (Civil) (No. 16 of 1989) has flayed Export Processing Zones (EPZs) for poor performance; and

(b) if so, the details of action by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b): The report of C&AG has pointed out certain shortfalls relating to value addition, export targets, earning of foreign ex-

change, etc. in the various Export Processing Zones. Action on various observations would be finalised soon in consultation with the Development Commissioners of the Zones.

Merger of HCI with ITDC

11. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for the merger of the Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) with the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). The question of merger of HCI with ITDC has been dropped for present.

Export of Betel Leaves

13. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the export of betel leaves; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). Export of betel leaves is freely allowed. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Commerce, assists in the promotion of exports of various agricultural products including betel leaves.

Investment on Tourism in West Bengal

14. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to release additional funds for promotion of tourism in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details of projects selected for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to State Govts. on proposals put forward by concerned State Governments. The Central assistance depends on the viability of the project proposed by State Governments and the funds available with the Central Government. The following projects have been selected for Central assistance and they are being executed in West Bengal :—

1. Construction of Cottages at Ajodhya Hills
2. Tourist Lodge at Digha
3. Wayside facilities at Durgapur
4. Tourist accommodation at Shantiniketan
5. Tourist facilities at Mukutmanipur
6. Cottage blocks at Gadiara
7. Yatri Niwas at Darjeeling
8. Mounting of Sound and Light Show at Rabindra Bharti University Calcutta.
9. Yatrika at Mayapur
10. Yatrika at Gangasagar
11. Launch for Cruises on the River Hoogly.
12. Floating accommodation, Sunderbans.

Song and Drama Division

15. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to abolish the Song and Drama Division; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of Second Channel of Door-darshan by States

16. SHRI V.N. GADGIL:
SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:

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

(a) whether Government propose to allow State Governments to open second of Doordarshan; and

(b) if so, the proposed organisational structure for the second channel?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Uniform Civil Code

17. SHRI V.M. GADGIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state: