

Upgradation of artists in AIR

10396. **SHRI UTTAM RATHOD** : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of artists (musicians) of AIR who were upgraded by the Director General, A.I.R. under his discretionary powers during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what were the recommendations of the Music Audition Board after assessing the performance in the above cases ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). The Director General, All India Radio has the discretion to upgrade an artist whose performance is considered to be of outstanding quality and above the standard expected of an artist in that grade. During the last two years this discretionary power has been exercised by the Director General, All India Radio to upgrade 3 artists.

(c) The recommendation of the Music Audition Board in respect of two artists was that they were not fit for upgradation and in the third case that the artist should be weeded out.

Subsidised Import

10397. **PROF. K.V. THOMAS** : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether domestic industries face competition due to subsidised imports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) It is presumed that the reference is to import of capital goods with which the Ministry of Industry is concerned. C.I.F. cost of capital goods are not subsidised by the Ministry of Industry. However the interest of domestic industries are safeguarded through the mechanism of indigenous clearance and tariff structure.

(b) Does not arise.

Indian Convention Promotion Bureau

10398. **SHRI S. B. SIDNAL** : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Convention Promotion Bureau has been formed with the assistance of the travel industry and Tourism Department to promote international conventions in the country;

(b) if so, the other main features of this body;

(c) the date by which this body is likely to submit its report; and

(d) the details of the international conventions that will be encouraged in our country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. As reported by the Department of Tourism, the main objectives of India Convention Promotion Bureau are :

(i) To promote India as a venue for international conference.

(ii) To provide the data bank on the conference industry.

(iii) To project India through extensive advertising and publicity as a great conference destination.

(iv) To encourage executives in India to learn about conference management through various seminars.