

(b) the names of foreign countries where A.I.R. correspondents are working;

(c) whether there is a proposal to appoint additional special correspondents abroad;

(d) if so, the criteria adopted for their appointment;

(c) the names of the countries where they are to be posted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUD-BEN M. JOSHI): (a) As on date, 68 regular correspondents and 173 part-time correspondents are functioning in India and 4 Special Correspondents and 7 part-time correspondents are posted abroad.

(b) Regular Special Correspondents are operating from Teheran, Dacca, Cairo and Hong Kong. Part-time correspondents are working in Belgium, Nepal, U.K., Kenya, Syria, West Germany and U.S.S.R.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Regular correspondents are selected from amongst suitable Central Information Service officers and part-time correspondents are selected from amongst qualified journalists working abroad.

(e) During the current financial year a proposal to appoint full-time special correspondents in four countries, namely Afghanistan, Nepal, Singapore and Pakistan is under the consideration of the Government.

Hindi News Broadcast by A.I.R.

2036. SHRI AJITSINH DABHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindi is not mother-tongue of the majority of the people of India who listen the news broadcast of All India Radio;

(b) if so, whether it is the policy of the Government that the reading of the news in Hindi broadcast by All India Radio should be such as can be easily understood by listeners;

(c) whether it is a fact that voice of most of the readers of Hindi news-bulletin is hoarse and their speed of reading is fast; and

(d) if so, do Government intend to take early steps to see that only those persons are engaged as readers of Hindi-news-bulletin whose voice is clear, sweet and pleasing to the ear and whose speed of reading is moderate?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUD-BEN M. JOSHI): (a) No specific figures bringing out the language-wise proportion of actual listeners of news broadcasts of AIR is available. However, it is a reasonable assumption that the potential listeners of Hindi programmes would be the highest among all languages.

(b) Every effort is made to see to it that the language of news bulletins in Hindi is such as is readily understood by listeners, even while care is taken that the basic charter of the language is not distorted.

(c) No, Sir. Hindi Newsreaders-Translators are selected by properly constituted Selection Boards. The process of selection includes appropriate voice test. Newly recruited Newsreaders-Translators are made to pass through a period of professional experience on shorter news bulletins before they graduate to the reading of the main news bulletins. A continuing review of the reading performance is part of the normal system of functioning and deficiencies are pointed out to the concerned Newsreaders, whenever the need arises.

(d) Does not arise.