

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Jajpur	Sh. Ramachandra Khuntia	—	—	10/11/98	—
9.	Cuttak	Sh. Rangnath Mishra	—	—	07/08/98	—
10.		Miss. Farida Topno	—	—	—	—
The present non-sitting Member of Rajya Sabha						
11.	Rayagada	Smt. ILLA Panda	27/03/98	INR	—	—
12.	Khurda	Sh. Somappa R. Bommai	50+	—	—	—
13.	Cuttack	Sh. Narendra Pradhan	18/03/98	11/06/98	20/05/98	—
					1st	11nd

R Mean funds released.

RES Means Resigned.

T.V. Serials on Tamil Saints

589. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy of Government for propogating the life and philosophy of ancient Tamil Saints;

(b) whether proposals from several T.V. Serial producers for giving slots for such television serials are pending in Chennai Doordarshan till now; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to expedite such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Prasar Bharati have intimated that programmes are telecast by Doordarshan to propagate the philosophy/teachings of ancient Tamil Saints on their anniversaries.

(b) and (c) Under the New Sponsorship Scheme (NSS), the following serials on the ancient Tamil saints have been approved by Doordarshan Kendra, Chennai:

1. Thamizh Thattha
2. Thiruvalluvar
3. Vallalar
4. Arputha Ramanujar
5. Thiruvirutthithar Thirumoolar
6. Arunagirinathar
7. Vallalar Kanda Orumaipadu
8. Thirumurubatrupalai.

Out of the above serials 'Thamizh Thattha' and 'Thiruvalluvar' have already been telecast from June '96 to August '96 and December '97 to April '98 respectively.

The remaining approved serials are in the second list and will be slotted as and when their turn comes.

Harassment to Indian Women

590. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been numerous reports regarding ill-treatment, harassment and sexual abuse of Indian women, particularly Keralites, who are employed in the Gulf countries as maid servants; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Immediately on receipt of the complaints, the Indian diplomatic Mission in the concerned country takes up the matter with the sponsors/employers/Indian guarantor, if any, and with their cooperation the employee is repatriated to India at the cost of the employer. In cases where the employer was not traceable or was not cooperative, the maid servants have been repatriated to India at Government cost.

With a view to streamline the employment of maid servants from India in the Gulf countries, following safeguards have been introduced:

- (a) No female worker who is less than 40 years of age is allowed to migrate for work unless her employment documents are attested by the Indian diplomatic Mission/Post in the Gulf countries.
- (b) No female below 40 years of age having a passport with the classification of "Emigration Check Required (ECR)" is granted emigration suspension even for purposes other than employment in Gulf countries unless she produces a sponsorship certificate duly attested by the concerned Indian Mission/Post.
- (c) Certain Indian diplomatic Missions/Posts in the Gulf countries have also devised additional local safeguard measures.