

1	2	1	2
Begusarai	Lakhminiya	Chaibasa	Chaibasa
Khagaria	Muskipur		Chakradherpur
	Parwatta	Palamu	Latehar
	Mahesh Khunt		Navinagar
Madhubani	Madhubani	Arrah	Piro
	Jainagar	Sasaram	Kochas
	Benipatti		Vikramganj
	Ghogardiha	Gaya	Tekari
Saharsa	Simari-Bakhtiyarpur		Kurtha
	Saharsa		Arwal
	Salkhua		Sherghati
Madhepura	Madhepura		Daudnagar
	Raghopur		Lohardaga
	Birpur		
Araria	Araria	Patna	Patelnagar
	Jogabani		Bikram
Purnia	Raniganj		Bihta
	Kaswa		Naubatpur
	Baisi		Punpun
	Puraini		Masaurhi
Bhagalpur	Kahalgaon		Bakhtiyarpur
	Asarganj		Mokamah
	Sultanganj		Barh
	Amarpur		Patna City
	Bausi		Rajgir
Banka	Banka		Chandi
Monghyr	Bariarpur		
	Jhajha		
Deoghar	Deoghar		
Godda	Godda		
Giridih	Giridih		
Hazaribagh	Hazaribagh		
	Barhi		
	Simaria		
Nawadah	Nawadah		
Jamshedpur	Kadma		
	Baharagora		
	Ghatsila		

**Funds for Production of Films**

1665. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have granted funds to some private companies for production and telecast of a number of films in the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the norms/guidelines have been followed in this regard;

- (d) if so, the details thereof; and  
 (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Funds are provided by Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan to private producers/companies for production of programmes including films under the commissioning scheme. It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that an amount of Rs. 3960.60 lakhs was sanctioned to 333 private producers/companies for this purpose during the period 1.12.97 to 30.11.1998.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has laid down the following broad criteria/norms for selection of TV serials under Doordarshan's commissioned programme scheme:-

- (i) relevance of the story, theme or subject to the needs of Doordarshan;
- (ii) treatment of the subject/storyline;
- (iii) conformity to the telecast code; and
- (iv) track records of the Director, Executive Producer, Writer, crew etc.

Prasar Bharati has reported that these norms are being strictly followed by Doordarshan.

- (e) Does not arise.

#### **Blacklisting of Indian Firms**

1666. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL:

SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether United States administration has recently blacklisted as many as 200 organisations in India;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with US administration; and
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The US Department of Commerce published on 13th November, 1998 a list of Indian entities that will be subject to US export restrictions. The list includes 40 Indian Government organisations, scientific institutions, public sector undertakings and private companies. Together with their subsidiaries, the number is 208. US Commerce Department licenses will be required for export by US companies to the listed entities.

(b) India has always maintained that such unilateral restrictive measures are unjustified and counter-productive.

GOI issued a statement on November 14, 1998 that "this step is a very unfortunate development. These restrictions interfere with the free flow of trade, technology & finance and have an adverse impact on mutually beneficial business interactions.

The decision reflects the continuation of a coercive approach that is entirely misplaced and counter-productive. Such steps are unhelpful for meaningful discussions towards an improvement in bilateral relations which is desired by both countries."

(c) This matter has been taken strongly with the United States. India's concerns have been made known. Government is also examining the issue from the point of WTO consistency.

(d) There has been no change in the US position so far.

#### **Visas to Indians**

1667. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UAE, Qatar and Libyan Government have imposed some restriction on issuing new visiting visas for Indian;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Indian Government have taken up the matter with these Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

#### **Telephone Connections in Kerala**

1668. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total backlog of applications for telephone connections in Kerala; and

(b) the time by which the backlog is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The waiting list, for telephone connections in Kerala, as on 30.11.1998 was 710495.

(b) 1.06 lakh new telephone connections were provided from 1.4.98 to 30.11.98 and another 2.19 lakh new telephone connections are likely to be provided to clear a part of the waiting list during the current financial year. The remaining waiting list is likely to be cleared progressively by 2001.

#### **Soil Conservation**

1669. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: