

(d) whether Government propose to sanction some more PCOs in the Union Territory during the current financial year;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reactions therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Telephone facilities in the tribal areas in Dadra and Nagar Haveli are available. The exchanges are working in following places in Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) Silvassa-4000 lines | (ii) Dadra-368 lines |
| (iii) Naroli- 184 lines | (iv) Dapada-184 lines |
| (v) Khanvel-184 lines | (vi) Sili-88 lines |

(b) The Telecom facilities are being extended progressively in this area. New exchanges are being installed based on demand. Expansion work of exchanges is under progress in following places:- Dadra-1000 lines C-DoT Exchange in replacement of 2x256 C-DoT exchanges.

Naroli-512 line C-DoT in replacement of 256 C-DoT.

On completion of expansion work, more new telephone connections will be released in this area.

(c) At present 130 PCOs (local +STD) are working in Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) 37 more STD/PCOs have been approved. These are expected to be provided during the current financial year.

(f) Not applicable in view of reply to part (e) of the question.

Cotton Technology Mission

1728. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to launch the Cotton Technology Mission to facilitate farmers to increase their cotton products; and

(b) if so, the time by which the mission is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has proposed to launch the Cotton Technology Mission to facilitate farmers to increase their production.

(b) Mission is likely to be launched during 1999.

Vacant Posts of Directors at AIR/FM Station

1729. SHRI SURESH KURUP:

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

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

(a) whether posts of Station Directors at various AIR/FM stations have been lying pending since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for not filling up the same within a stipulated period;

(c) whether the functioning of various AIR/FM stations has been badly affected due to vacancies; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to fill up those posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) At 106 AIR/FM stations, the posts of Station Directors are at present lying vacant for want of eligible officers in the feeder grade.

(c) The work is being managed with the available staff and every effort is made to ensure that functioning of Station is not adversely affected.

(d) All eligible officers as on October 1997, in the feeder grade, have already been promoted as Station Directors. The process for holding further meetings of the Departmental Promotion Committee for promotion of eligible officers as on October 1998 has already been initiated.

Depiction of Humiliating Scenes In

Cinema and T.V. Serials

1730. SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of increasing scene of depicting humiliation of persons belonging to different religions, castes, States, or speaking different languages in cinemas and T.V. Serials; and

(b) if so, the specific steps taken by the Government to prevent depiction of such scenes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Complaints/press reports regarding such scenes in some films are received by Government from time to time.

(b) Films are examined and certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952. Guidelines to the CBFC have already been issued under the relevant provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 for certification of films. These guidelines, inter-alia, lay down that visuals or words contemptuous of racial, religious or other groups and visuals or words which promote communal, obscurantist, anti-scientific and anti-national attitudes are not presented. All Doordarshan Programmes are exempted by Government from the censorship provisions of the Act subject to the condition that while clearing Programmes for telecast the Doordarshan authorities shall keep in view the film certification guidelines. Accordingly, the serials telecast on Doordarshan are duly previewed by Committees set up by Doordarshan before telecast.