

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this fund is likely to be created?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) :
(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. This fund will be for manning of unmanned level crossing in a phased programme basis, for construction of Road over bridges/Under bridges at busy level crossings and other safety related works at level crossings. Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech of 1999-2000, has announced that Railways will be provided funds out of Central Road Fund, being created by levying of duty @ Rs.1/- per litre on diesel alongwith the duty already levied on petrol with effect from 2.6.98. Ministry of Railways have accordingly, requested Finance Minister, for allocating adequate money out of this fund, to the Railways.

[English]

Duty Free Shops at International Airports

*346. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are planning to offer duty free shops to private companies at the international airports;

(b) if so, whether any bids have been invited and offers evaluated;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the India Tourism Development Corporation has sought the intervention of the Government to retain duty free shops at the international airports; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Global tenders were invited for the space at five international airports for running duty free shops in December, 1998. Four parties sent their tenders, out of which only two parties qualified for the opening of financial bids. The offers of both these parties have been rejected, since the offers were well below the Minimum reserve licence fee stipulated by Airports Authority of India.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

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Television

Norms for Selection of Children's Serials

*347. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

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

(a) whether the Doordarshan have laid down any norms for the selection of Children's serials;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Children's serials selected by the Doordarshan during the past some years have caused adverse effects on the children; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made to have a fresh look in the matter and to select good quality serials for children?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) and (b) It has been reported by Prasar Bharati that as per their guidelines, all programmes, including those meant for children, are required to conform to the provisions of the Broadcast Code. No programmes which promote superstitious beliefs, or involve/incite children in any act of violence, either as victims or as perpetrators, are telecast on Doordarshan.

(c) and (d) In general, there have been no complaints about the adverse effects on children of the serials telecast on Doordarshan. A recent exception has been of the serial 'Shaktimaan' which has been tremendously popular with the children but at the same time has attracted criticism from various quarters. While Prasar Bharati had decided to discontinue telecast of this serial it is still being telecast under the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.

The planning and production of children's programmes/serials is done in such a way so as to ensure a judicious mix of healthy entertainment and education for the children. No change in this approach is considered necessary.

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Television

Advertisement and Programme Code for TV Channels

*348. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to bring a