

(d) if so, the concessions given to these States during the last three years; and

(e) the extent to which the concessions are likely to be given during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati extends 25% and 75% concession for the spots relating to small savings carried by All India Radio and Doordarshan respectively. This concession is extended uniformly to all the States.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that while no request has been received by All India Radio from the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, Doordarshan has received a request only from Government of Andhra Pradesh for extending 75% concession for this purpose which is already being provided to them.

(d) Both the States were provided with 75% concession by Doordarshan and 25% concession by All India Radio during the last three years.

(e) Prasar Bharati has informed that the present rate of concessions being provided by All India Radio and Doordarshan are likely to continue during the current financial year as well.

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*Air Services*

#### More Flights on Calicut-Mumbai-Calicut Sector

3578. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received requests from the State Governments for increasing the frequency of flights at Calicut-Mumbai-Calicut sector; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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*Akashwani*

#### Functioning of Broadcasting Station at Cochin

3579. SHRI GEORGE EDEN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Commercial Broadcasting Station at Cochin is not functioning;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether sufficient staff has been appointed there; and

(d) if so, the break-up thereof, category-wise?

THE MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (d) The Commercial Broadcasting Service of Cochin has a studio and 2x5 kw transmitter which was formally inaugurated on 15.2.96. Since then, it has been relaying Vividh Bharati Service. The paging, which was started on 28.6.95, was subsequently shifted to Commercial Broadcasting Service transmitter from 1.8.96 and both Vividh Bharati and National Channel programme were relayed for 24 hours. The Commercial Broadcasting Service studio is not functioning as no staff has been sanctioned for the same.

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*Taxation*

#### Revenue from Soft Drink Industry

3580. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on various soft drink schemes during the last three years and till date;

(b) the policy formulated by the Government to promote the Soft Drink Companies particularly the Indian Companies; and

(c) the value of soft drinks produced till 31st December, 1998 as compared to the corresponding period of the last year?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) No financial assistance under any of the Plan Schemes of the Ministry has been extended so far to units engaged in the manufacture of soft drinks (sweetened aerated water).

(b) The soft drinks (sweetened aerated water) industry is a delicensed industry and entrepreneurs can set up units by filling Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda with the Government except where the unit is proposed to be set up within the restricted area/location for which prior permission of Government is necessary. In addition, all units, in soft drinks (sweetened aerated water) are required to obtain licence under Fruit Products Order, 1955.

(c) As per information available, the production of soft drinks (sweetened aerated water) which was 445 crore bottles in 1996-97 increased to 492 crore bottles in 1997-98.