

Restrictions on Broadcasting Licences

532. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to drop restrictions on holding broadcasting licences within a particular category; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

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) No, Sir. Restrictions on holding broadcasting licences within a particular category were part of a Broadcast Bill introduced in the Eleventh Lok Sabha which lapsed due to dissolution of the House.

Gauge Conversion

533. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the gauge conversion of Solapur-Hubli railway line is likely to be started and completed;

(b) whether the gauge conversion of Bijapur-Godag railway line into broad-gauge has been completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The details are as follows:—Solapur-Hobli is expected to be completed by 31.3.1999. Hotgi-Bijapur section has already been completed. Work on Bijapur-Gadag section has been taken up and will be completed in the coming years as per availability of resources. Gadag-Hubli section has already been completed.

(c) Constraint of resources.

Infrastructure for Tourist Places in Rajasthan

534. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for providing financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure for the places of importance from the point of view of natural resources, history, culture and tourism, from the State of Rajasthan, particularly in Haduti, Jaipur, Swai Madhopur;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) to (c) Development of Tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. Ministry of Tourism provides financial Assistance for the specific projects identified in consultation with them based on their merits and availability of funds. This Ministry has prioritised 25 projects for Rajasthan for 1998-99 for an amount of Rs. 431 lakhs. The prioritised projects include Light and Sound Show at Amer, Jaipur, Upgradation of Hotel at Gangaur, Jaipur and Paryatan Bhawan at Jaipur (under Equity Scheme).

In 1997-98, the Ministry sanctioned an amount of Rs. 23.35 lakhs for the upgradation of castle Jhoomer Baori at Sawai Madhopur.

Balance Sheet of Doordarshan

535. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Mahajan demands DD ledgers" appearing in the "Pioneer", dated January 30, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per the provisions in the Prasar Bharati statute itself, seeking data/information from Prasar Bharati regarding revenue collections and other matters is a routine exercise undertaken by the Government, from time to time, so as to keep itself apprised of the financial health of the organisation, to draw future budgetary estimates and to update information data bank.