

**Functioning of TV Relay Centre at
Kanhngad in Kerala**

564. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the TV relay centre completed two years ago at Kanhngad in Kasaragod district in Kerala is still not functioning; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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) A Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT) is functioning at Kanhngad in Kasargod district of Kerala since December, 1995. However, due to shortage of staff, only part-time transmission is being currently provided by the LPT. Efforts are afoot to provide adequate staff.

(b) Does not arise.

Gauge Conversion of Makum-Dangori Section

565. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the execution of the gauge conversion of Makum-Dangori railway line in Tinsukia district of Assam has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work would be completed within the 9th Plan period subject to availability of resources.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Construction Airstrip at Rewa

566. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the steps being taken to expand the Rewa airstrip and to provide a halt of Khajuraho-Varanasi airflight at Rewa with a view to enable the tourists to visit the famous Bandhavgarh sanctuary during Khajuraho sanctuary celebrations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : The Airports Authority of India has no proposal to develop Rewa airport which belongs to Government of Madhya Pradesh. Indian Airlines has no plans to operate services to Rewa because of capacity constraints.

[English]

Opening of FM Radio Stations

567. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open more FM Radio stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any proposal is pending with the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the revenue earned by the Government from the existing F.M. service during the last three years?

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) Details are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Prasar Bharati had proposed setting up of more FM Stations as per Statement-II