

Staff Quarters of AIR/Doordarshan in Assam

181. DR JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the construction work of staff quarters of AIR/Doordarshan in Guwahati.

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed.

(c) whether any memorandum has been received from AIR and Doordarshan staff of Guwahati in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). Representations are being received from time to time from various sources, including AIR/DD staff, for construction of staff quarters and these are implemented on merit subject to availability of requisite infrastructure facilities, financial resources and inter-se priorities. 109 staff quarters are available at AIR, Guwahati. 4 additional staff quarters have been completed, 27 Nos. are under construction of which 12 Nos. are expected to be completed by March, 97 and the remaining 15, civil works are in progress. Doordarshan also plans to construct staff quarters in Guwahati. Site for the said construction has been taken over. However, scheme is yet to be sanctioned. Normal lead time for completion of a project of this magnitude is 3-4 years after the scheme is sanctioned.

[Translation]

Demand of Quota in RAC by Members of Maharashtra Legislature

182. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Members of Maharashtra Legislature have demanded quota in Reservation Against Cancellation during their rail journey; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The Committee of Privileges of Maharashtra Legislative Council in their report recommended that while allotting berths to the passengers on RAC (Reservation Against Cancellation) Members of Legislature should be given priority irrespective of their number of waiting list.

(b) Giving preference to the Legislators over the general passengers in RAC is not considered advisable since it would raise the question of discrimination in

allotment of accommodation which is open to all in turn. However, instructions already exist that the Legislators when boarding trains at the last minute should be afforded the facility of travel and allotment of accommodation if it is available.

[English]

Telecast Rights to Star T.V.

183. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the terms and conditions for allowing the telecast rights to the Star T.V.; and

(b) its impact on the programmes of the Doordarshan at present being telecast from the various T.V. Stations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Doordarshan has not offered any telecast rights to the Star TV.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

F.M. Band of AIR in Madhya Pradesh

184. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the broadcast range of All India Radio, Betul City in Madhya Pradesh is limited to Betul district only;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide FM band to cover the more areas;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to make available such radio sets with FM band to the panchayats in the State; and

(e) if so, the number of such radio sets provided so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The entire district of Betul is covered by 6 KW FM Transmitter (Local Radio Station) at Betul.

(c) Twelve FM station/channels have been commissioned in the State of Madhya Pradesh during Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plans period. A 10 KW FM Transmitter is being installed at Jabalpur as a part of expansion of commercial channel.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.