

Pradesh for setting up, expansion and upgradation of TV transmitter/AIR Stations during 1996-97. till date;

(b) the number of proposals cleared/ pending so far;

(c) whether the Government have also received representation for setting up of an F.M. Radio Station and High Power TV transmitter at District Anantapur and Malabon in district Kannur;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(f) the time by which these projects are likely to be taken up and completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Requests from various quarters, for setting up, expansion and upgradation of TV and Radio services have been received from time to time. Such request are kept in view, alongwith other factors such as availability of location, infrastructural facilities, resultant coverage and *inter-se* priorities, while finalising the All India Radio/Doordarshan Projects which is a continuous activity.

(c) to (f) Whereas a local radio station already exists in Anantapur, a High Power TV Transmitter at Anantapur is also functional. Besides, a HPT at Kanpur (Cannanore in Malabar area of Kerala) has been envisaged in replacement of the existing Low Power Transmitter. Lead time involved for execution of such a project is about three to four years after the scheme is sanctioned by the competent authority subject to availability of infrastructural facilities and *inter-se* priorities.

#### Opening of Divisional Office at Gaya

3001. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have seen press reports that appeared in the Hindi '*Hindustan*' from Patna dated January 8, 1997 under the heading "Gaya Men Railway Ka Diveejanal Karyalay Kholne Kee Mang" and in the Hindi '*Aaj*' from Patna dated January 16, 1997 under the heading "Khyati Prapt Shahar Gaya Kee Upechha Ko Mantri Ne Sweekara";

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from Bhartiya Railway Upbhokta Sangh of Gaya as well as State Government during the last two years in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item appeared in Hindi '*Hindustan*' from Patna dated 8.1.97 contains demands for additional trains from Gaya, completion of Line to Bodh Gaya and a Railway Division at Gaya communicated in a petition by Bhartiya Railway Upbhokta Sangh to the Hon'ble Minister for Railways.

The news item in '*Aaj*' from Patna dated 16.1.97 reports the same news with reported agreement of Hon'ble Minister of Veterinary and Dairy Development, Shri Raghubans Prasad Singh with the demands.

(c) The Government has recently received representation regarding, amongst others, setting up of a Divisional Office at Gaya.

(d) New Divisions are set up keeping in view factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic patterns and other operating/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency. Taking the various factors into account, the Government has decided to set up eight new divisions at Agra, Pune, Singrauli, Rangiya, Ranchi, Raipur, Guntur and Ahmedabad.

#### TV Tower, Hargaon, Uttar Pradesh

3002. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work on High Power TV transmitter, Hargaon, District Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh has since been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the construction work for setting up TV tower at many other places in the country where foundation stones were laid is in progress;

(d) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(e) the time by which the construction work at Hargaon TV tower is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) implementation of some of the TV transmitter projects for which foundation stones have been laid could not be taken up due to resource constraints.

(e) Since a High Power TV transmitter (HPT) is envisaged to be set up at Lakhimpur, located at an aerial distance of about 25 kms. from Hargaon, setting up of a separate HPT

at Hargaoon has not been considered practicable on technical considerations.

#### **Engineering Facilities**

3003. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has decided to market its engineering facilities world-wide and convert it into a profit centre; and

(b) if so, the modalities involved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) A multi disciplinary Market Cell has been set up to explore the possibilities of taking up jobs of maintenance, overhaul of airframes and engines etc. of domestic as well as international airlines.

#### **Construction of Overbridge/Underbridge at Karnal Kachhwa**

3004. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a heavy traffic at the level crossing on Karnal - Kachhwa Road due to frequency of the crossing remaining closed, much hardship and inconvenience is being caused to the people;

(b) if so, whether the Government have ever studied the situation prevailing at the said railway crossing and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether there is any proposal to construct either an overbridge or an underbridge at the above crossing to ease the congestion and for free and smooth flow of traffic; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government has observed that Road Over Bridge/Road under Bridge is justified.

(c) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal for construction of Road Under Bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 71-B on Karnal - Kachhwa Road.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Running of Train on Newly Constructed Koraput-Rayagada Line**

3005. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to run any Express/Mail passenger train on the newly constructed Koraput-Rayagada line in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the new Express/Mail/Passenger train is proposed to be introduced during 1997-98; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) It is proposed to run a Koraput-Rayagada Link Express to Bhubaneswar and extend 8005/8006 Howrah-Rayagada Express to Koraput in addition to a passenger shuttle on Koraput-Rayagada section during 1997-98.

#### **Uplinking Facilities**

3006. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :  
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :  
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to grant permission for uplinking facilities to foreign and domestic private satellite channels from India;

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken;

(d) whether the Government also propose to seek the help of any other agency to popularise the Doordarshan International Channel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) The issue of permitting uplinking facilities to foreign and domestic private satellite channels is related to the question of permitting private broadcasting from within the country. This issue would be addressed to in the proposed broadcasting bill which is likely to be introduced during the current session of Parliament.

(d) and (e) To popularise the Doordarshan International channel the help of such agencies is being sought on an experimental basis, who can downlink the signals of DD-International over the footprint countries of Pan - Am - Sat - 4 and PAS-1. So far, no objection certificates have been issued to three companies namely, ATN (Canada), ASIINET (U.K. & U.S.A.), APNA TV (UK, Europe & USA).

#### **Electronic Exchanges in Tamil Nadu**

3007. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of electronic exchanges as on date in Tamil Nadu;