

- (iv) Number of check-posts have been established and Forest Protection Force, equipped with wireless network, are deployed at strategic locations for protection of Red Sanders forests from illicit fellings.
- (v) Cooperation of people in protection and management of forests is through Joint Forest Management practices.

Award of Power Projects to Private Sector Through Competitive Bids

3758. SHRI C.D. GAMIT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in February 1995, Government issued guidelines for award of power projects to private sector through competitive bids;

(b) whether some States had invited competitive bids on their own before the issuance of these guidelines in February 1995;

(c) if so, whether the Central Electricity Authority notified the criteria for according Techno-Economic clearance in cases of competitive bid projects;

(d) if not, whether it has resulted in avoidable delays in the implementation of badly needed power projects, besides harassments to prospective developers/financers; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to remove the anomalies for the speedy execution of power projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Competitive bidding for award of power projects to private generating companies was made mandatory from 18-2-1995 and the guidelines in this regard were forwarded to States/Union Territories in January, 1995.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Central Electricity Authority, while considering accord of techno-economic clearance (TEC) to competitive bid projects is guided by the relevant sections of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and the procedure prescribed by the State Electricity Boards in their bidding documents. Government of India has brought out a Notification for award of thermal power projects through competitive bidding in May, 1997. Further refinements in the competitive bidding procedure would be made if required, to ensure a more transparent and faster approval process.

Time Slot on F.M. Channel to Private Parties From AIR Bangalore

3759. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Radio Bangalore, has decided to allot time slots on its FM Channels to private parties for the broadcasting programmes;

(b) if so, the time by which it likely to come into effect; and

(c) the total number of applications received and the amount proposed to be earned from the said decision per year?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The date for broadcast by private parties was scheduled as 1.5.98 but it could not be done as some of the present private operators at four metros have filed cases in different High Courts and got stay against the opening of the tender. The new date for starting the broadcast will be fixed after the stay orders are vacated.

(c) A total number of 16 applications were received. The amount proposed to be earned from the said decision per year depends on the finalisation of bids.

Irregularities in Approval of T.V. Serials

[Translation]

3760. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities have been committed in the approval of T.V. serials;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to bring transparency in the selection of serials?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Approval of serials is done by Prasar Bharati.

(c) Prasar Bharati is an autonomous Corporation.

Setting up a Circle Head-Quarter

3761. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for the setting up a circle headquarter of telecommunication in the district headquarter of Deoria in Uttar Pradesh is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.