

labour project societies at the district level for running special schools for the rehabilitation of child labour. Under the scheme, State Governments are not provided any financial assistance directly for rehabilitation of child labour. Funds released under various child labour schemes for the last three years are as follows:—

1995-96	3429.71 lakh
1996-97	3383.50 lakh
1997-98	1317.76 lakh

(b) and (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had, in its judgement dated 10.12.96 directed that a survey should be conducted for identification of child labour. The first phase of the survey has already been completed in most of the States/UTs. The number of children working in hazardous and non hazardous occupations in different States/UTs identified in the first phase of the survey is 1,26,665 and 4,28,305 respectively.

Recruitment in Doordarshan and AIR, Assam

1249. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of recruitment of technical and other staff for Doordarshan and All India Radio Stations in Assam is lying pending since long time;

(b) whether several Doordarshan Kendras and All India Radio Stations in the State are not functioning properly for want of adequate number of technical and other staff; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures taken for recruitment of staff for proper functioning of Doordarshan/Akashwani Kendras in the State?

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) No, Sir. The due process for filling of all vacant posts in Doordarshan and All India Radio is already underway.

(b) and (c) A few All India Radio Stations and Doordarshan Kendras are running partial transmission with truncated staff. Efforts are made on a continuous basis to obtain staff sanction from the competent authority and fill up the posts as per rules.

Conversion of AIR Station at Asansol

1250. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1680 on June 8, 1998 and state:

(a) the time by which AIR station at Asansol to be converted into full-fledged AIR station; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to set-up studio there?

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) At present, there is no approved proposal for setting up of an AIR Studio at Asansol or to convert it into a full-fledged AIR station.

Disparity in Pay Scales

1251. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a disparity in the pay scales of Stenographers working in the Directorates of AIR and Doordarshan and the Stenographers working in various field offices of AIR/Doordarshan;

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

(c) whether the Government feels this disparity is justified even after the formation of the Prasar Bharati; and

(d) if not, the steps envisaged to rectify this disparity?

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) The pay scales of various categories of stenographers in Directorates of AIR & Doordarshan are the same as obtaining in various Departments of the Government of India since these posts are cadre posts of Central Secretariat Stenographers Services. The posts of various categories of stenographers in the field offices of AIR & Doordarshan come under the category of posts in the subordinate formations for which different pay scales have been prescribed by the respective Pay Commissions including the 5th Central Pay Commission.