

Upgradation/modernisation of existing international airports is a continuous process and Airports Authority of India (AAI) has drawn up plans, both long-term and short-term, for this purpose. The main thrust of the development will be on construction of new terminal buildings, lengthening and strengthening of runways, expansion of apron area and modernisation of the existing terminal buildings to provide better facilities to passengers. Development of Cargo Complexes is also envisaged to cater to the increasing cargo traffic.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Policy on Airport Infrastructure permits private participation/investment in the development of airports. Foreign equity participation is permissible upto 74% with automatic approvals and upto 100% with special permission. In the first phase, it has been decided to corporatise the existing airports at Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Calcutta and the proposed new airport at Bangalore. These airports have been selected because they handle a major chunk of the traffic to/from India and massive investments are required to restructure the airports to make them world class. Corporatisation will bring about effective changes in the management. It will also contribute to the overall increase in the productivity and will be able to attract investments to improve the standards of service/facilities. The AAI is in the process of appointing Financial and Legal Consultants who will advise on the various aspects of corporatisation of the five airports referred to above.

Foreign Capital in Film Production

*139. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow foreign investment in film production and other allied activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which this decision will help inflows of foreign investment; and

(d) the extent to which it would help in modernisation of the film industry and export of films?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN):

(a) to (d) Foreign investment in the film sector for various

activities like production, distribution, construction of multiplexes etc. is already permissible on a case to case basis.

Telecasting Services in Remote Areas

*140. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate staff has not been provided for the smooth functioning of VLPT and LPT centres in the remote areas of the country; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to provide adequate staff for its smooth functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) VLPTs of Doordarshan are unmanned installations and as such, need no staff to operate them. For some of the LPTs which also include some located in remote areas in the country, it has not been possible to provide staff for want of sanction of new posts. For some other LPTs, only partial staff sanctions have been issued. To solve this problem, the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance has been requested to make an urgent study of the staffing norms of various Doordarshan installations including LPTs to work out their overall staff requirement. On receipt of recommendations of the SIU, necessary action will be taken for creation of requisite number of posts so that all the LPTs are suitably manned.

Vacant Posts of Judges

*81. SHRI E. AHAMED:
DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Justice of India has recently criticised the executive for its lukewarm response to fill up the vacancies of judges in the country;

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

(c) the total number of vacancies of judges in various High Courts and Supreme Court of India as on date and the steps contemplated/being contemplated to fill up the same;