

(c) the time by which these districts are likely to be connected by it?

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) DD-I and DD-II and all the other channels of Doordarshan are available throughout the country via satellite and could be received by using appropriate dish antenna system. All the districts of Madhya Pradesh are, wholly or partially, covered by the terrestrial transmitters of DD-I service functioning either in the same district or in nearby district. DD-II service is available terrestrially by a low power transmitter within its coverage range functioning at Bhopal district of M.P.

(b) and (c) Whereas a Low Power TV transmitter (DD-I) is already functioning at Bilaspur, setting up of TV projects throughout the country, including Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh, is a continuous process which is being carried out by Prasar Bharati, Doordarshan, in a phased manner, depending on availability of resources, and inter-se priorities.

[English]

Purchase of Advanced Jet Trainer

1273. DR. SANJAY SINH:
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since approved the purchase of Advanced Jet Trainers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be delivered?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Government has approved the acquisition of Advanced Jet Trainers for the Indian Air Force.

(b) and (c) Commercial negotiations with the shortlisted vendors are in progress. Some additional options are also likely to be considered before an appropriate decision is taken.

Chinese Base near A&N Islands

1274. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that China is trying to establish and consolidate its bases and stations in certain islands near Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details of the security threat of such actions to the security of India; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to protect the security and integrity of India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) While China does not have any base of its own near Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the Government is aware of the Chinese assistance to Myanmar in the upgradation of the Naval base at Coco Island.

The existence of radar, surveillance equipment and other such sophisticated facilities have security implications for India for which adequate and appropriate measures are being taken.

Introduction of First Class Coaches

1275. SHRI R.S. GAVA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the train in which 1st Class coaches have been reintroduced during the last one year;

(b) whether any modification has been carried out in these coaches; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) 1 Class accommodation has been reintroduced on the following trains:—

1. 3347/3348 Palamou Express
2. 7497/7498 Venkatadri Express
3. 4845/4846 Shalimar Express
4. 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.