

In addition to above, Air India wetleased 4 B747 in 1996 and 4 B747 and 4 L1011 in 1998 for Haj operation between India and Jeddah. These operations were on "no profit no loss" basis.

Functioning of Doordarshan/AIR Stations in J&K

1317. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for countering the anti-India propoganda from across the Line of Control and International border in J&K;

(b) whether many of the relaying stations of AIR and Doordarshan in J&K especially at Bhaderwah, Poonch, Rajouri, etc., are not functioning properly; and

(c) if so, the steps taken for making these functional especially the station at Bhaderwah?

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) The terrestrial network of All India Radio and Doordarshan have been strengthened to improve their coverage in the border areas by commissioning new stations, upgrading the power of some of the existing transmitters and broadcasting/telecasting suitable programmes including news bulletins that present the facts in their proper perspective. In addition, programmes are also mounted regularly on Doordarshan's International Channel presenting a correct picture on Kashmir.

(b) and (c) The AIR Station at Poonch is functioning satisfactorily. While there is no Radio Station at Rajouri, the Station at Bhadrawah is being set up and the premises have presently been occupied by the security forces. On vacation of the premises and improvement in law and order situation, further works will be taken up. Other Radio Stations in the State are functioning satisfactorily. Further, all the TV Transmitters except VLPT, Kihotran, which was destroyed by militants, are functioning properly in the State.

Clear T.V. Reception Facilities in Gujarat

1318. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the clear T.V. reception in Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad districts of Gujarat;

(b) whether any proposal to cover the Ahmedabad district by metro channel is under consideration of the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) 2 HPTs, one each for DD-I and DD-II service, and one LPT in Ahmedabad district; and four LPTs in Bhavnagar district are, at present, providing satisfactory TV service within their coverage range.

(b) and (c) An HPT is already functioning in Ahmedabad district for releay of metro channel (DD-II) service.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of Railway Station at Rampur

1319. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a repeated request from the people of Tumkur and surrounding areas particularly from the people of Rampur to provide a railway station at Rampur between Sampige and Nittur; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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) and (b) Only one representation was received for opening of a halt station at Rampur between Nittur and Sampige Road stations on Tumkur-Arsikere section. The proposal was examined but not found commercially justified.

Military Personnel Killed by Insurgents in J&K

1320. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of military personnel killed by insurgents during the last ten months, State-wise with particular reference to Jammu and Kashmir and Eastern States; and