

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) Besides DD-1 and DD-2, 15 channels of Regional Service programmes and DD-International Channel are at present in operation. All the channels, including DD-1 and DD-2, are available in the entire country via satellite by using appropriate Dish Antenna System.

The Prasar Bharati Board has decided, in principle, to launch an exclusive Sports Channel. As the details in this regard are yet to be worked out, no specific time frame for operationalisation of the Channel can be indicated at present.

Passenger Special Monitoring Cells

1405. SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADODA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been chalked out by the Government for setting up of Passenger Special Monitoring cells at divisional or regional railway headquarters; and

(b) 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) and (b) The Special Monitoring Cells comprising officers and staff of the concerned departments of the Railways are functioning at zonal and divisional railway headquarter levels to receive complaints and suggestions on day to day basis and take appropriate action for prompt disposal. On receipt of the complaints/suggestions, action is taken for long-term and short-term solutions according to the nature of the complaints/suggestions and instructions are sent out to the field units for attending to them promptly.

[*Translation*]

TV Transmitter at Phulparas, Bihar

1406. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR): Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the T.V. transmitter installed at Phulparas in Madhubani district, Bihar is presently not working; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made functional?

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 transmitter is functioning normally.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Emoluments paid to Typists

1407. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether typists appointed in the Railways are not paid the emoluments as per the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Railway Board has imposed any restrictions on the appointment of the typists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

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) No, Sir. The pay scales allotted to Typists in the Railways are in accordance with the Fifth Central Pay Commission's recommendation that all posts in the Railways other than those specifically discussed by the Commission are to be granted standard replacement scales of pay and placed in the corresponding revised scales.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Since July 1992, direct recruitment in the cadre of typists on the Railways has been discontinued and vacancies of typists in the lowest grade are being added to the Clerical cadre in the corresponding grade. Direct recruits in the cadre of clerks are now required to also possess typing proficiency of prescribed level.