

(b) It is proposed to expand the telephone system at Delhi by 47,300, 16,600 and 65,600 lines during 1982-83, 83-84 and 84-85 respectively.

(c) The number of working lines at the exchanges located in the trans-Yamuna ares of Delhi Telephone District was 7829 as on 1-2-82. It is proposed to expand the capacities of these exchanges by 4200 and 1,000 lines during 1982-83 and 1983-84 respectively, subject to equipment supplies

Circular regarding preparation of News Bulletins on the Bandh

*29. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
SHRI SUNIL MAITRA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government by a circular with regard to preparation of new bulletins on the Bandh on January 19, 1982 asked the AIR and TV Centres all over the country that their news bulletins must not project the success of the Bandh and they would highlight all anti-bandh demonstrations ; and

(b) if so, whether such instructions interfere with the independence of news coverage by these two public media ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SAHNE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

News Bulletins in Maithili

*30. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2579 on 8-12-1981 regarding broadcast of Maithili News Bulletins from Darbhanga and other Radio Stations of Bihar and state :

(a) which are the languages in which news bulletins are broadcast from various stations of the All India Radio ;

(b) how many of the above languages have got lesser number of colleges and universities to teach them in degree and post-graduate course, smaller period of historical record in written literature ; and

(c) what are the causes for excluding Maithili ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SAHNE) : (a) In the Home Service, the Stations of A.I.R. broadcast news bulletins in 62 different languages and dialects including tribal dialects. A statement containing the names of these languages and dialects is laid on the Table of the Sabha:

(b) A.I.R. has no information on these particulars.

(c) As per its policy, A.I.R. broadcasts news bulletins in a particular language if the people speaking that language in the concerned service area are unable to understand the language of the news bulletins already being broadcast for that service area. On this basis, it is the considered view of Government that the need for a news bulletin in Maithili is not established as the bulletins in Hindi have a wide listening in the service areas of Bihar stations.