

- (iii) The certificates are in the denomination of Rs. 100, Rs. 500 Rs. 1000, Rs. 5000, and Rs. 10,000 and carry the interest rate of 12% compound half-yearly but payable after maturity period of six years.
- (iv) Investments qualify for tax deduction under Section 800 of the Income Tax Act.

Another scheme, namely Deposit Scheme for Retiring Government Employees had been introduced from 1st July, 1989. The retired/retiring Central/State Government employees can invest their retirement benefits under the scheme. The investment earns interest at the rate of 9% p.a., payable half-yearly. The interest income is exempt from income tax.

(c) and (d). The Government of Maharashtra suggested that the benefit of section 80L of Income Tax Act be extended to investments in National Savings Certificates (VIII Issue). This suggestion was not agreed to.

[*Translation*]

#### **Safeguarding Interest of Indian Broadcasting (Engineering) Service**

861. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision was taken in 1985 regarding constitution of Indian Broadcasting Service;

(b) if, so the reasons for not implementing the decision;

(c) whether Government are contemplating measures to safeguard the interest of the personnel of Indian Broadcasting (Engineering) Service created in 1981 in view of

the constitution of a Corporation envisaged in the Prasar Bharati Bill; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a). Yes Sir.

(b) While the Government are in favour of constituting the proposed Indian Broadcasting (Programme) Service, the question have now to be examined in the context of the decision to convert All India Radio and Doordarshan into an autonomous Corporation.

(c) and (d). The Prasar Bharati Bill envisages that all employees of Akashwani or Doordarshan so transferred to the Corporation will have the option to be governed by their existing scale of pay immediately before the date of transfer. Similarly, in matters of leave, provident fund, retirement or other terminal benefits, such employees will have the option to retain their existing terms and conditions or to be governed by similar benefits admissible to the employees of the Corporation to be prescribed.

#### **Issuance of Identity Cards to Voters**

862. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue multi-purpose identity cards to the electorate of some States and if so, the names of such States; and

(b) the time by which such cards are proposed to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

Government propose to issue multi-purpose identity cards to voters. The financial and other details required for the purpose is under consideration of the Committee on Electoral Reforms which has been appointed by the Government to go into the proposals for comprehensive electoral reforms. Meanwhile the Election Commission has decided to introduce multi-purpose identity cards to voters in the State of Goa as a pilot project.

[English]

#### Production of Rubber

863. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of natural rubber during the last three years;

(b) whether any scheme has been formulated for further increasing the production of rubber; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM(SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c). For encouraging natural rubber cultivation/production/productivity the measures implemented by the Rubber Board include:

1. rubber plantation development scheme
2. scheme for acceleration of development in non-traditional areas;
3. establishment of nurseries and distribution of planting materials;
4. supply of inputs to small holders on subsidised rates;
5. advisory and training services;

6. scheme for promoting irrigation in rubber plantation, and

7. community marketing and processing

It is only as a result of these measures that the production of natural rubber has increased in the past and likely to increase further. Production during the last 3 years has been as under:-

Year	Quantity(Tonnes)
1986-87	219,520
1987-88	235,197
1988-89	259,172

#### Malayalam Programmes Transmission Centres in Kerala

864. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the facility to transmit Malayalam programmes has been provided in all the transmission centres in Kerala;

(b) if not the centres which do not have this facility at present; and

(c) the time by which this facility would be provided in all these centres?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI P.UPENDRA): (a) to (c). No, Sir. At present Regional TV Service telecast by Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum, is relayed only by High Power (10KW) TV transmitters at Trivandrum and Cochin and the Low Power (100 W) TV Transmitter at Calicut catering to about 70% of the population in the State. This service would get further extended on