

[20 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

JAITLEY): (a) The programmes of All India Radio cover remote areas of Indo-Bangladesh border and parts of Indo-Burma border.

(b) Does not arise.

Promotions in Prasar Bharati

†1901. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has sought advice from the Department of Law in connection with the promotion of personnel not connected with programme service cadre of Prasar Bharati; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Incentives to Electronic Harmonium Artists

1902. DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3032 given in the Rajya Sabha on 14th July, 1998 and state:

(a) the number of applications received by AIR from modern harmonium players in Carnatic music and how many of them were allowed solo performance during the last two years;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to attract more electronic harmonium artists and the incentives being provided to them in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have prepared any panel of harmonium players?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have informed that Audition of Harmonium Players in Hindustani and Carnatic music started in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1996 and since then only nine applications have been received from Harmonium Players in Carnatic music for audition. Solo performance in All India Radio is allowed only to those artists with "A" Grade or above and since there is no "A" Grade artist in Harmonium, no Solo performance has been allowed. All India Radio have also clarified that there is no instrument called modern/electronic Harmonium. With a view to attract the talents, the payment to artists of electronic effect instruments like keyboard, synthesiser etc. has been recently revised.

(c) No, Sir.

Retirement of Members from Prasara Bharati Board

1903. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines followed for retiring one-third members of Prasara Bharati Board after every two years;

(b) whether the guidelines were followed while retiring the two members whose names were announced recently; and

(c) the criteria followed for selection of new members of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) On the advice of Attorney General, following criteria were taken into consideration while curtailing the term of office of some of the part-time Members in order to retire one-third of them every second year:—

(i) the experience, expertise and background of the Members;

(ii) their contribution to the effective and harmonious working of the Board;

(iii) relative indispensability of part-time Members at the present stage and the necessity of taking the benefit of their services by their retention for a further period of time; and

(iv) all other relevant circumstances.

(b) Yes, Sir.