

TV Tower at Raigarh in Jaisalmer

†49. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the highest T.V. tower of Asia was installed at Raigarh of district Jaisalmer in Rajasthan togetherwith the expenditure incurred on it and purpose of its installation;

(b) whether the said tower is functioning as per its capacity; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and persons responsible for this and the steps being taken by Government to completely ban the anti-India programmes being transmitted in the said area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) High power (10 KW) transmitter with 300 M tower was commissioned at Ramgarh (not Raigarh) in Jaisalmer district on 31st March, 1997 at a capital cost of Rs. 8.76 crores, for the purpose of providing coverage in the border district of Jaisalmer.

(b) The transmitter at Jaisalmer is operating on full power and relays transmission for about 15 hours a day.

(c) Does not arise.

Involvement of DDG, Doordarshan in Corruption

50. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dy. Director-General of Doordarshan was recently found involved in corruption;

(b) if so, whether, following his involvement, Government have made any exercise to identify the areas open to corruption and the procedural deficiencies and loopholes requiring to be plugged;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) The areas of activities of Doordarshan prone to corruption have been identified and orders have been issued streamlining the procedures involved in processing the serials/programmes/events etc. Also all the complaints regarding alleged corruption in Doordarshan are examined thoroughly.

Proposal to Introduce a Comprehensive Legislation on Broadcasting

51. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a comprehensive legislation on broadcasting;

(b) if so, the parameters thereof;

(c) whether Cable Act would be merged into the broadcasting law; and

(d) what are the views of Broadcasting companies and cable operators in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The Government intends to formulate a new Broadcasting Bill for introduction in the Parliament at the earliest, details of which are yet to be finalised.

Special Audit of Prasar Bharati and Doordarshan

52. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether C.A.G. has refused to conduct a special audit in respect of Prasar Bharati and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the areas specified for special audit by C.A.G.

(c) what are the reasons for refusal by C.A.G to conduct special audit;

(d) whether the differences in conducting special audit in respect of Prasar Bharati and Doordarshan have been resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) The following requests were made to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) for audit in the matter relating to Prasar Bharati;