

(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 SINH A: 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,

- (i) Prasar Bharati, in April 1999 had requested the C&AG to get the audit of both AIR and Doordarshan (especially commercial, procurement and costing of programmes under commissioned category) conducted.
- (ii) On a request from Prasar Bharati, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting made a reference to C&AG in August 1999 to conduct a special audit on the matters relating to "Doordarshan's Sports Consortium" and the serial 'Sri Krishna' respectively.

Regarding (i) above, it has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that C&AG has already conducted audit in most of the areas identified for special audit and the report is awaited.

As regards (ii) above, the C&AG has intimated that the Director General of Audit, Central Revenues is in the middle of a detailed audit in the matter of "Doordarshan's Sports Consortium" and the outcome of it will be reported alongwith the audit report for the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1999. As regard the serial 'Sri Krishna', since it was included in the audit for the year ended 31st March, 1996-No. 2 of 1997, the C&AG has intimated that the audit findings on the subject cannot be materially different to what has already been done and as such, a fresh audit on the subject will be superfluous. C&AG has accordingly expressed its inability to undertake any special audit on the serial 'Sri Krishna'.

Relaying Bengali news from T.V. Centre, Assam

53. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the news in Bengali is relayed only once a week from T.V. Centre, Silchar, Assam;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government propose to relay Bengali news daily from the centre; and
- (d) if so, by when this is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) programme matters of Doordarshan fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati which is a