

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) 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'.

Transfer of Regional Channels of DD

56. SHRI. A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to transfer the Regional Channels of DD to the State Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

29 November, 1999

RAJYA SABHA

(c) whether any State Government has any proposal to start their own TV Channels; and

(d) 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.

(c) and (d) Recently the State Government of West Bengal had made a proposal to start their own TV Channel which could not be agreed to as it did not fall within the extant policy.

Strengthening the Prasar Bharati Board

57. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

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

(a) whether Government are of the view that Prasar Bharati experiment has failed and the Act has to be scrapped;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to strengthen the Prasar Bharati Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) In order to improve of functioning of Prasar Bharati in terms of quality of its services, credibility and professionalism, a Committee has been constituted to study the working of Prasar Bharati, and make appropriate recommendations in regard to its organisational structure, legal framework, system and other relevant areas.

Reservation for other Castes

†58. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have also decided to provide reservation for other castes in the country;

† Original notice of the Question, was received in Hindi.