

who has entertained the Indian Cinema viewers and audience through electronic media for a period of decade or more;

(b) if so, give names of such Bollywood personalities covered under the existing tradition;

(c) whether the death of playback singer "Talat Mehmood" has been mourned at official level by electronic media; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for by-passing such a tradition?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) There is no tradition to mourn the death of colourful personalities of Bollywood at official level. However, the death of cine personalities are suitably carried in News and other programmes of All India Radio and Doordarshan. Recently deaths of Om Prakash, Lalita Pawar, Dada Khondke, Talat Mehmood, Laxmikant, etc. were covered in the News and other programmes of All India Radio and Doordarshan.

(c) and (d) The death of playback singer Talat Mehmood was widely covered in the programmes of All India Radio/Doordarshan. A number of tributes and other programmes were broadcast/telecast by Prasar Bharati including the National Channel of All India Radio and Doordarshan.

Modernisation of Postal Services

*195 SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any phased programme to modernise postal services in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Ninth Five Year Plan of the Department of Posts (1997-2002), seeks to expand, in a phased manner, the scope and coverage of the programmes of modernisation of postal services including specific agency functions through induction of new technology initiated during the Eighth Plan Period. The focus of the programme of modernisation is to improve the quality of postal services as well as to increase revenue generation. Human resource development through appropriate training for skill upgradation and streamlining of management functions are also priority areas identified to support the modernisation programme.

Scheme-wise details of targets proposed under the Ninth Plan in order to modernise postal services are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 184, Annexure No. 44].

Details of achievements in 1997-98, the first year of the Ninth Plan, in respect of plan programmes relating to modernisation of postal services are available in the Annexure and the targets set for such plan programme in 1998-99 are available in the Annexure [See Appendix 184, Annexure No. 44].

Deposits Received by the Nationalised Banks in Orissa

*196. SHRI NARENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of deposits received by the nationalised banks in Orissa during the last three years; and

(b) the details of advances sanctioned by these banks to different sectors, bank wise/sector wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE