

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to rectify these anomalies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) The matter is under examination of the Government.

Acquisition of M-II missiles by Pakistan from China

783. OR. BAPU KALDATE: SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: SHRI VISHWASRAO RAM-RAO PATIL: SHRI KAPIL VERMA: KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA: SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAND-RAKANT BHANDARE: SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: SHRI SORESH PACHOURI: SHRIMATI VEEN A VERM A:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the Government's perception of threat to India's security arising from Pakistan's acquisition of M-II ballistic missiles from China;

(b) what are the North Indian cities which will come under target range of these missiles;

(c) what measures are being taken to provide an effective deterrent to these missiles;

(d) whether China has also given to Pakistan their bomb design of their fourth bomb test; and

(e) whether China has also supplied enough enriched Uranium to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PA WAR): Government consider the acquisition of sophisticated arms and missiles by Pakistan, beyond its legitimate defence requirements, as adversely affecting India's security and

the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

(b) M-II missiles being launched from mobile launchers and their strike depth would depend on the site from which they are fired. Certain cities in I&K, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat will fall within the range of these missiles.

(c) Government take into consideration all developments impinging on our security and continually update plans to maintain full defence preparedness.

(d) and (e) Government have seen reports to this effect.

Implementation of Prasar Bharati Bill

784. SHRI PARVATHANENI UP- ENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any schedule for the implementation of the Prasar Bharati Act; and

(b) if so, by when the Corporation is likely to come into being?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRDA VYAS): (a) and (b) Most of the activities essential to the formal establishment of Prasar Bharati have not been completed. Besides, the possibility of bringing out amendments in the Act cannot be ruled out. The Government are nevertheless committed to set-up Prasar Bharati within 365 days as promised in Congress Manifesto.

Security to flic Media Personnel and ft» Installation!

785. SHRI PARVATHANENI UP- ENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the security for media personnel and its installations has been tightened after the extremists attack on the Director General

of Doordarshan on June 13, 1991;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a sense of insecurity is prevailing among the media personnel; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to provide security to the employees and installations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir, such security was further tightened after the said incident.

(b) and (c) The security arrangements are reviewed from time to time and appropriate action taken in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, State Governments and the security agencies.

Removal of Doordarsh: News Readers

786. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of News Readers in Doordarshan have been taken off their task recently;

(b) what is the procedure followed for making the selection; and

(c) the number of News Readers who are now on the panel and those whose names have been deleted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The applications for casual News Presenters are initially screened at the Kendra level and those found suitable are called for preliminary audition by way of a voice test. Candidates found suitable in the audition tests are thereafter invited for camera audition. The recordings are previewed by Committees constituted by the Director of the Doordarshan Kendra.

In case of the National News Bulletins, Committees are constituted by Door-

darshan Directorate. The Central Committee has normally five Members with the Director General as the Chairman besides three outsiders and Additional Director General (News)/Deputy Director General (News) as the Members. On the basis of the recommendations of the Committees, the successful candidates are initially offered trial booking. The Presenters are placed in the approved panel of casual News Presenters subject to their satisfactory performances.

(c) There are at present 25 English News Presenters and 21 Hindi News Presenters on the Panel. There has been no deletion of any names from the approved panel.

Number of Newspapers closed down in the country

787. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of newspapers have been closed down in the country during the last one year;

(b) if so, the names of such newspapers which have been closed down and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to persuade the managements to restart these newspapers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c) As per the information available with Registrar of Newspapers for India, 3 newspapers in Tamil Nadu, 1 in Kerala and 7 in Delhi, ceased their publication during 1990. The list of these newspapers is given in the statement. Any newspapers which cease publication can resume the same any time after making a fresh declaration before the District Magistrate concerned. As a matter of policy, the Government do not interfere in such matters.