

Expansion of DD network

81. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken for expansion of the network of Doordarshan in the non-affluent areas;

(b) how many studio projects, besides other development work, will be completed during the current financial year;

(c) the reasons for delay in developing the infrastructure;

(d) whether non-fixation of any target is causing any delay in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Presently, Doordarshan network comprises 55 studios and 1227 transmitters of varying powers. For further expansion of Doordarshan network, 9 studio projects and 229 transmitter projects are presently under implementation.

(b) Four studio projects at Chandigarh, Dehradun, Mathura and Trichur have been commissioned during the current financial year and two studio projects at Patiala and Leh are technically ready for commissioning. Installation of 2 additional studio projects at Gangtok and Calicut is expected to be completed during the remaining period of current financial year.

(c) to (e) Generally, Doordarshan projects are completed within specified target dates. However, occasional delays occur due to reasons like delay in availability of suitable sites and other infrastructural facilities and contractual problems.

DD news channel

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

(a) the reasons for Government's hesitation to take action against the officer responsible for miserable condition of Doordarshan's news channel;

(b) whether appointment of present Director-General of Doordarshan's

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

news channel has been made under any pressure or is it just to complete the formality;

(c) if so, what will be the effect on the working of news channel; and

(d) if not, by when appointment of permanent Director-General of news channels of All India Radio and Doordarshan will be made?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Improvement of programmes of Doordarshan News is a continuing process and the content and presentation is being regularly upgraded. It has been decided to synergise Radio and Doordarshan news under the aegis of Prasar Bharati. Under this scheme, Director-General (News) of All India Radio has also been given charge of Doordarshan (News).

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Revenue of Prasar Bharati

83. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revenue of the Prasar Bharati has doubled and 50 percent of the revenue comes from outside;

(b) whether for building a society and societal values, Prasar Bharati will have to play a public broadcaster's role which could not be purely commercial and the rural development programme could also be made more interesting and entertaining like the BBC;

(c) whether the serials could also play a tremendous role in creating social awakening and empowering women; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to make Prasar Bharati a public broadcasting organisation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The revenue of Doordarshan has been increasing in recent years. The total revenue of Prasar Bharati during the last three years is as given below:

Year	Revenue (Rupees in crores)
1998-1999	493.06
1999-2000	678.03
2000-2001	711.41

A substantial portion of the revenue comes from Non-Government sources.