

plan and non-plan assistance have been extended to the public enterprises from time to time. Details of plan and non-plan assistance are indicated at Statement No. 9 and 14 respectively of the Expenditure Budget Vol. I (which is a part of Budget document) for the corresponding years. Performance in terms of profit/loss of the Central Public Sector Enterprises including those receiving assistance are available at Statement No. 6 of Public Enterprises Survey Report Vol. I for the corresponding years, which is a published document.

#### **Opening up of print media to foreign equity**

71. SHRISURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's are going to open up the print media to foreign equity; and

(b) if not, Government's stand on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government continues to be guided by the Cabinet decision of 1985, which *inter-alia* prohibits publication of foreign owned newspapers/periodicals in the country and Indian editions of foreign news-papers/periodicals dealing mainly with news and current affairs.

#### **World Development Report**

72. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have studied the World Bank Report titled "World Development Report 2002: Building Institution for Markets" released on 11th September, 2001 pleading strongly *inter-alia* for private media and open information flows; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to ensure the right of information to the citizens?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Personnel & Training has informed that with a view to making the Government more transparent and accountable to the public, Government had introduced the 'Freedom of Information Bill, 2000' in the Lok

Sabha on 25th July, 2000. The Bill, as introduced and pending in the Lok Sabha, was referred to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs for examination. The Committee has since presented its Report to both the Houses of Parliament on 25th July 2001.

**Package for increasing the coverage of AIR and DD in N.E. Region**

73. DR. Y. LAKSHMIPRASAD:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the package for increasing the coverage of All India Radio and Doordarshan in the North East to fight dominance of neighbouring countries' channels;

(b) the estimated cost for implementation of the package;

(c) whether infrastructure for satellite transmission has been provided; and

(d) the action proposed to broadcast creative local programme to make the medium effective?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATISUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has approved in principle, the implementation of a special package of schemes for improvement of Doordarshan and AIR services in the North-East Region (including Sikkim). The package will be implemented in the 10th Five Year Plan, and advance action will start during the current financial year. The firming up of estimated costs depends on appraisal by the Expenditure Finance Committee as well as the success of experimental strategies for cost reduction.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In-house productions in the AIR Stations and Doordarshan Kendras of North-East are giving due emphasis to the social economic and cultural setup of the area. Local producers who are conversant with the culture of the people and the area, are to be preferred for commissioning of programmes. All commissioned programmes are being done in the local language.