

Cancellation of project of a Hindi News Magazine by Doordarshan

1595. SHRI KAPIL VERMA.
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
KUMARI ALIA:

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

(a) whether Doordarshan has cancelled a project of a Hindi news magazine even after paying an advance; if so, what were the reasons therefor, who were the producers and how much advance money was paid; and

(b) whether Doordarshan has decided to curtail the Current Affairs programme; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA):

(a) It has been, on reconsideration found more appropriate to produce Hindi News Magazine as an in-house production of Doordarshan. The offers earlier made to three outside producers for production of this programme were accordingly cancelled. Two of these outside producers had been advanced a total amount of Rs. 4. 80 lakhs.

(b) No, Sir. The frequency of telecast of the current affairs programme per week has, in fact, been doubled.

Change in Nepal's Policy towards India

1596. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
KUMARI ALIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is precisely the change in attitude of the new Nepal Government on its policy towards India and on key issues that had in the past created differences between the two countries;

(b) the time by when the next round of official talks will take place and with what agenda; and

(c) whether any basis has been accepted by both countries for a comprehensive treaty; if so, what are the main features thereof?

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THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) The new Government of Nepal has laid special stress on restoring the traditional warmth and friendship of Indo-Nepal relations and improving them further.

(b) and (c) The timing and other details for the next round of official talks will be decided soon. All issues of mutual interest are expected to be discussed during the talks with a view to bringing about a comprehensive settlement of all outstanding problems between the two countries.

Widening of highways in Rajasthan

1597. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present number of highways in Rajasthan where widening of roads have been undertaken so far;

(b) what is the present stage of widening of Highway from Jaipur to Delhi and by when the work is likely to be completed; and

(c) if the progress of widening is slow what are the reasons therefor?

I THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHANAN): (a) Out of sever

National Highways passing through Rajasthan, widening beyond single lane has been taken up so far on five National Highways, namely National Highways 3, 8, 11, 12 and 15.

(b) National Highway 8 from Delhi to Jaipur (261 Km) is already having 2 lane carriageway apart from 18. 72 Kms where it is widened to 4 lanes or more. Further, widening from 2 to 4 lanes is in progress in a length of 23. 10 kms. Out of the balance length (219. 18 kms), Annual Plan 1990-91 provides for sanction of widening to 4 lanes in 107. 50 kms. Widening of National Highways to 4 lanes is undertaken keeping in view the traffic intensity, availability of resources and *inter se* priorities. No indication about the widening of remaining length can be given as 8th Plan is yet to be finalised.

(c) Does not arise.

Allotment of newsprint to Uttar Pradesh for Literacy Programme

1598. KUMARI ALIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh and public representatives from the State have approached the Central Government to allot newsprint for printing of books connected with the scheme to attain cent per cent literacy in the State;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government thereon;

(c) the details of assistance given/proposed to be given to Uttar Pradesh to attain the desired literacy; and

(d) by when the scheme is expected to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Freedom Fighters Pension Cases recommended by Uttar Pradesh Government

1599. KUMARI ALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of Freedom Fighters pension cases recommended by the Government of Uttar Pradesh and pending with Central Government, District-wise;

(b) the details of reasons for delay in finalisation of such cases; and

(c) the steps contemplated to finalise these cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) All applications for grant of Swatantrata Sainik Saman Pension received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh upto 31-3-1982 *i. e.* the last date prescribed for receipt of such applications have been disposed of. Out of the recommendations received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh after 31-3-82 only 12 cases are awaiting finalisation. District-wise information is as under: —

District	No. of cases
Meerut	1
Etawah	2
Ballia	1
Deoria	1
Gazipur	2
Jhansi.	1
Nainital	2
Bareilly	1
Bahraich	1
TOTAL	12