

Removal of anomalies

2064. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Federation of Information and Broadcasting employees has called for setting up a standing committee to consider the present pay scales and remove anomalies; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA):

(a) No representation appears to have been received from National Federation of Information and Broadcasting Employees for setting up a Standing Committee to consider the present pay scales and remove anomalies.

(b) Does not arise.

Addition of channels

2065. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state by when more channels are to be added in the Doordarshan at the national level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

Regional language programme 'Chitramala'

2066. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many times the regional language programme 'Chitramala' was cancelled by Doordarshan during 1987; and

(b) whether Government are considering the demand for increasing regional

language film song programme 'Chitramala' since it is viewed in more states?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA):

(a) During 1987, the programme 'Chitramala' was cancelled only once viz. on 12-1-87.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to increase the frequency of this programme.

Raid against video piracy

2067. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted all over the country against video piracy and the number of cassettes confiscated as on date, State-wise number of raids and confiscation of such tapes;

(b) the number of blue film cassettes confiscated as on date, statewide; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the blue film shooting going on in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA):

(a) and (b) As the enforcement of relevant statutes is the responsibility of the State Governments, Central Government do not maintain statistics relating to number of raids conducted against video piracy and the number of confiscated cassettes, including those of blue films.

(c) Production of films in India is in private sector and generally no permission from any Government is needed for shooting a film. However, all films before their public exhibition have to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification as per the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983 and the guidelines issued thereunder by Central Government.

The guidelines *inter alia* provide that the Central Board of Film Certification while certifying a film for public exhibition will ensure that humansensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity and depravity.

Sending Indian astronaut in space

2068. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what progress has been made in sending an Indian astronaut into space in collaboration with USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): Due to the unfortunate accident with Space Shuttle 'Challenger' in January 1986 and the consequent transfer of the launch of INSAT-IC to Ariane and INSAT-ID to Delta unmanned launchings, the INSAT-IC Payload Specialist flight programme had to be dropped. Presently, the Space Transportation System (STS) flights are suspended and are not expected to resume until June 1988. Also, at present there are no Indian spacecraft slated for STS launchings. As and when the new NASA policy on flight of foreign Payload Specialists on future STS flights emerges, the possibility of flying an Indian astronaut on STS in collaboration with USA/NASA will be considered and a decision will be taken keeping in view the scientific/technical and other benefits that many accrue from such a flight.

Definition of family

2069. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for rationalising the definition of 'family' for the purpose of extending the family pension benefit to the mother of a bachelor Government employee;

(b) if so, whether action has been initiated to expedite a decision in the matter so that many such people are benefited; and

(c) by when the job of rationalising the definition of 'family' is likely to be done?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) to (c) The rationalisation of the definition of 'family' for various benefits available to a Government servant is under consideration.

Ex-gratia payment to CPF retirees

2070. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fourth Central Pay Commission have made recommendations regarding grant of ex-gratia payment to CPF retirees and their widows;

(b) if so, what is the nature of said recommendations;

(c) whether Government have accepted the said recommendations;

(d) if so, whether Government is issuing orders and what are the details thereof;

(e) whether Government are aware of the fact that very few CPF retirees and their widows are alive; and

(f) if so, whether orders on pay commission's recommendations will be expedited to benefit such retirees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b) The Fourth Central Pay Commission have recommended grant of an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 300/- per mensem with effect from 1.1.86 to all CPF beneficiaries who retired prior to 31.3.1985 with a basic pay upto Rs. 500/- p.m. at the time of