

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) The production and distribution of films are mostly in private hands and the subject Cinema, including exhibition, falls under the State List. The Central Government, therefore, have no control on this matter.

Construction of Theatres in Rural and Semi-Urban Areas

901. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the States which have sought assistance from National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) for construction of theatres in rural and semi-urban areas;

(b) how many States have so far been granted assistance in the matter; and

(c) what is the number of theatres constructed so far with NFDC assistance, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Applications have been received from parties in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Mizoram and Pondicherry.

(b) Forty-five applications from eleven States and Union Territories have been sanctioned loans for theatre construction.

(c) Seven theatres have been completed so far in Andhra Pradesh (2), Uttar Pradesh (1), Madhya Pradesh (1), Tamil Nadu (2), Karnataka (1).

Decentralisation of Stringers in Doordarshan

902. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE;

SHRI GHANSHYAM SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that this Ministry has failed to evolve a policy of decentralisation with regard to stringers in Doordarshan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that T.V. work is being assigned in an irrational manner, while the young graduate stringers are starving for want of work, certain millionaire parties with fat foreign assignments are given lion's share of work by Doordarshan;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the poor stringers are harassed for months together regarding payment of their bills; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Doordarshan Kendra engage stringers from panels maintained by them. Stringers are selected for assignments, keeping in view the quality of their coverage and the need for equitable distribution of assignments, to the extent possible.

(c) and (d) Payment to the stringers selected by various Kendras are made within a reasonable period. Occasionally, however, there is some delay in payment when the stringers had to be engaged, in excess of powers of the Doordarshan Kendra concerned, requiring approval of the higher authorities.