

**Countering misinformation campaign in insurgency-hit areas**

2330. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to counter the Pakistani-sponsored misinformation campaign being spread in insurgency-hit regions;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government is also planning to install high-powered transmitters for Doordarshan and AIR in the terrorist affected areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with the expenditure to be incurred on TV and FM transmitters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) and (b) There are reports that anti-India propaganda is received in the State of Jammu & Kashmir from across the border. All India Radio Stations and Doordarshan Kendras located in the border areas are actively engaged in planning and mounting programmes on a regular basis to counter the misinformation campaign by the neighboring countries.

(c) and (d) The Government has approved a scheme amounting to Rs.100 crore for strengthening the transmission of broadcasting signals in border areas of J&K. The details of the scheme are given below:

- I. Setting up of HPTs (10 kW each for Doordarshan and AIR) at three new locations, one each in three regions of J&K viz. *Srinagar, Leh and Jammu*.
- II. Setting up of 10 kW FM HPT at existing TV site at Naushera.
- III. Setting up of 2 nos. of 5 kW TV HPT at existing AIR site at Rajouri.
- IV. Setting up of 4 nos. of Low Power 100 watt FM Transmitter at existing sites in Leh Region.

**Amendments in the Cable Television Networks Regulations Act**

2331. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has requested for necessary amendments in the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act, 1995 to discourage the tendency of cable operators to evade payment of entertainment duty under the State Act and to specify the M.R.P. rate of cable connection;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) by when it would be corrected/amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 at present does not provide for cancellation of registration. There are some other deficiencies in the Cable Act which need to be rectified. The proposal of the State Government of Maharashtra also seeks an amendment in the Act to enable the registering authority to refuse registration and renewal of registration in cases of non-payment of entertainment duty. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has on 25.07.2008 submitted comprehensive recommendations on restructuring of cable services to the Ministry. The recommendations, *inter-alia*, provide for migration to a system of licensing from the present system of registration with clear terms and conditions of license and its renewal and also suspension/cancellation of license in case of breach of terms and conditions of license. The documentary proof requirements suggested for grant of license/renewal also include the details of tax payments etc. The Government is in agreement with the TRAI's recommendations in the above context. The Government is firming up its view on the other recommendations of TRAI which also require amendments to the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 so that a comprehensive proposal can be taken to Parliament.

In respect of proposal to specify MRP for cable connections, it is informed that the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has been regulating tariff charges, which a telecom service provider can charge from the subscribers, as per powers conferred under Section 11(2) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. The tariff orders issued by TRAI are available on the website ([www.trai.gov.in](http://www.trai.gov.in)) of TRAI. TRAI has informed that there is no proposal to specify uniform MRP to be charged for cable connection in the country. As such the proposal of State Government of Maharashtra does not require any action at the moment.

(c) No time limit can be prescribed as such policy issues require large scale consultations with stakeholders and other Ministries/Departments of the Government.

#### **High Court Bench in Kerala**

2332. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received a request from the Government of Kerala for establishing a Bench of Kerala High Court at the capital city of Kerala;

(b) what is the follow up action on the issue and what is the stand of the Ministry on this demand; and

(c) which are the big (major) States in the country which don't have a High Court Bench in their capital city?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) Setting up of a Bench of a High Court is considered only if a complete proposal in terms of section 51(2) of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 is received from the State Government concerned, including the consent of the Chief Justice of the High Court and the Governor of the State and also if it satisfies the broad guidelines and criteria recommended by the Jaswant Singh Commission. The Government has not received a proposal complete in all respect, as above, from the Government of Kerala.

(c) The States of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttarakhand do not have a High Court Bench in their capital city.

#### **Bench of Orissa High Court**

†2333. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the agitation going on for many years regarding demand for shifting of the bench of Orissa High Court, Cuttack to some other place of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.