

Selection of stringers for Doordarshan

575. SHRI KRISHNA NAND JOSHI:
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that an Empanelment Committee was formed by Government for screening the stringers for the Doordarshan;

(b) if so, when was this Committee formed and who are the members of the Committee and what are their expertise and qualifications;

(c) how many applications were received for stringership by this Committee and how many persons were selected; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the applications of senior stringers who have served as newsreel officers in the Films Division for over 10 years and have served as Cameraman Director in the Indian Air Force and have worked as cameramen in the film studios were rejected; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Empanelment Committee was constituted in 1977. The following were members:

- (i) Director General Doordarshan . Chairman
- (ii) Shri N. S. Thapa, Joint Film Producer (News-reel) Films Division, Bombay . Member
- (iii) Shri Lal Jaswani , Head of Films, Film and Television Institute of India, Pune Member
- (iv) Shri Hrishikesh Mukherjee, well-known Film Producer/Director, Bombay. Member (Non-official)

(v) Shri Atma Ram, Well-known Film Producer/Director, Bombay . Member (Non-official)

The members of the Committee were selected on the basis of their expertise/eminence in the respective fields.

(c) 192 applications were received for stringership at various Doordarshan Kendras and 38 persons were selected.

(d) Some of the applicants rejected were persons who had been working as stringers at various Doordarshan Kendras while some others had worked in Films Division, Film Industry etc. The Committee did not consider their qualifications, equipments and sample coverages done by them up to the required standard.

Programme recording by AIR stations

576. SHRI G. R. MHAISEKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether each All India Radio station has a mobile unit for recording programmes in the area of its jurisdiction;

(b) whether these mobile units move out regularly or periodically for such recordings; and

(c) if so, what are the details of programmes recorded by the Aurangabad Radio Station during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b). Outside broadcast units set up at 30 stations of All India Radio deal with all broadcasts emanating at a point outside the studios including sports, all major coverages involving broadcast of special radio reports and such other recordings outside the studios as may be assigned to from time to time.

(c) The Aurangabad station which was commissioned on 9-9-1976, does not yet have an O.B. Unit.

Discovery of a gas capable to substitute petroleum

577. SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA:

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report published in the *Tribune* of July 13, 1980, to the effect that a surgeon-specialist in Kidney transplant at P.G.I., Chandigarh has discovered a magic gas capable of replacing petroleum and running a scooter at a cost of only Rs. 1.25 for 600 kilometres as against the petroleum cost of about Rs. 100 for an equal distance;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to confirm the claim of the Surgeon of the P.G.I. (Chandigarh); and

(c) what are the details of the process of production of the gas and its efficacy for use as a petroleum substitute?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Film on the life of Mahatma Gandhi

578. SHRI SWAMI DINESH CHANDRA:

SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA:

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

(a) whether any foreign film producer or director has approached the Government of India for their approval for producing a film on the life of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi;

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

(c) whether written scripts of the proposed film(s) have been submitted to Government; if so, what are the salient features thereof;

(d) in what way is Government associated with it; and

(e) by when it will go in production and in how many languages it is going to be produced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (c) Sir Richard Attenborough, a famous British actor and internationally reputed producer, has approached Government of India for their approval to produce a film on the life of Mahatma Gandhi. Film's script has been submitted. The film will be woven around Mahatma Gandhi's statement 'My Life is My Message' and will seek to convey something of the philosophies, humanity and compassion to the world at large through the story of Mahatma Gandhi's life. It is intended to be a co-production.

(d) Sir Richard Attenborough proposed association of the Government of India with the production of the proposed film either directly or through a public sector undertaking. Government have reacted favourably to the proposal. The possibility of a National Film Development Corporation—partnered company going into co-production with Sir Richard Attenborough is being explored. The Indian film industry is fully associated through its representatives in the consideration of this project.

(e) The whole project, including investment requirements, distribution of sale proceeds and profits etc. is being appraised in great detail. At this stage,