

[24th July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

areas of the North Eastern States and to broadcast programmes, relevant to the area, in local dialects.

The Press Information Bureau is implementing some special schemes during the Ninth Plan such as, Computerization of the activities of PIB, opening of branch offices of PIB in tribal areas and coordinating and organising of press parties to tribal areas.

During the current Plan period, Directorate of Field Publicity has already opened four new Field Publicity Units in the North East and three more Field offices are proposed.

The Song and Drama Division is operating Sensitive Area and Inner Line Publicity Scheme and Tribal/Desert/Hilly Areas Publicity Scheme in the North-Eastern Region.

(b) to (d) The main reasons for which some of the remote areas of the NER remained uncovered by the media network were non-availability of adequate resources, for providing basic infrastructure, shortage of posts/staff, hilly and difficult terrain and local law and order problems. During the current 9th Plan, it is proposed to strengthen the existing units and open more field offices of the Media Units in the North Eastern Region in order to expand the coverage of areas. The existing facilities will also be put to optimal use.

AIR and Doordarshan are implementing a redeployment scheme to effectively man and operate their installations.

Doordarshan towers for expansion of Communication Services

†67. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give permission to Ministry of Communications to utilise Doordarshan towers for expansion of communication services;

(b) if so, details thereof and whether any primary survey has been conducted in this regard and which towers would be utilised for this task alongwith locations thereof;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) Doordarshan towers are designed for specific purpose of hoisting TV antennae. Requests from outside agencies for utilisation of DD towers has to be examined on a case by case basis vis-a-vis capacity of particular tower.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

**Recommendations made by Geeta Krishnan Panel for
closure of Media units**

68. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any recommendation from Expenditure Reforms Commission headed by Mr. K.P. Geeta Krishnan to close down several media units of the Department like Films Division, National Film Archives of India, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the Ministry's response to the recommendations made by Geeta Krishnan Panel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No such recommendation has been received as yet.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

Persons Residing at Old Compound, Mandi House without rent

† 69. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some of the employees of Doordarshan have been residing at Old Compound, Mandi House, the property of Doordarshan and AIR for the last fifteen to twenty years without paying any rent;

(b) what are the reasons for providing electricity and water by the doordarshan office in an illegal way; and

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.