

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Various reports pertaining to film industry indicate that the popularity of Indian films is growing abroad and that Indian film-makers are tapping overseas markets in different parts of the World including US, UK and South East Asia. Along with other audiences, the growing Indian diaspora around the world has created a market for Indian films overseas. As per the feed back received from representatives of Indian Film Industry, markets for Indian films are growing steadily in North Europe, Germany, France and Japan. In China too, there is huge untapped film market. Recently, the mainstream cable companies in the United States have started a "Video on Demand" for Indian films. Latin America is also a new market for Indian films.

(d) and (e) Recognising the potential of export of Indian films abroad, Government of India has taken several steps to encourage promotion of Indian films. Some of the steps undertaken are as follows:

(i) To promote Indian films, Government of India through its Plan Scheme "Participation in foreign Film Festival/Markets", encourages Indian companies and producers to participate in global film festivals and markets such as Cannes Film Festival/Market, European Film Market, Berlin, etc. Film Bazaar is also held alongside the International Film Festival of India at Goa. Further, in order to promote cinema and to enhance the visibility of our film industry, Govt. of India organizes India Pavilion in markets and screens Indian films in different International film festivals. Indian film festivals are also organized in different countries regularly.

(ii) Audio-visual co-production agreements have been signed with Republic of Italy, United Kingdom, Brazil and Germany.

(iii) An exclusive Services Export Promotion Council has been set up by Ministry of Commerce to give proper direction, guidance and encouragement to selected services sector. One of the selected services is entertainment services including audio-visual services.

#### **Irregularities in payments to SIS live**

2088. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have found irregularities in payments made to SIS Live, the UK-based firm which has bagged the broadcasting rights for Commonwealth Games;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and
- (c) whether CEO, Prasar Bharati is involved in the release of payments to SIS Live and if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken against CEO, Prasar Bharati?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) to (c) No broadcasting rights were given to M/s SIS Live UK, a partnership firm of the United Kingdom. However the contract for production and coverage facilities and activities under the host broadcasting assignment was given to this entity. Certain reports alleging irregularities in payments have been brought to the notice of the Government. An audit by CAG is currently underway in the matter. Further, Government has constituted a high level committee under Shri V.K. Shunglu to look into the issues relating to the organizing and conduct of the Commonwealth Games which interalia will include broadcasting of the games too. Appropriate action would be initiated thereafter.

#### **Investigation against members of Prasar Bharati Board**

2089. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether how many members of Prasar Bharati Board have been investigated for various acts of omission and commission by investigating agencies;
- (b) the reasons for such investigations;
- (c) whether it is a fact that, while one of the members has been raided by CBI and Income Tax authorities and yet he has been given extension;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that another part time member is involved in misusing his status as a member of the Board and concerned assignments worth over Rs. 10 lakhs;
- (e) whether the Ministry of Law and Justice has asked for removal of this member and yet he continues; and