

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING/

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (SHRI DHARAM VIR SINHA) (a) and (b) These bulletins are broadcast on the short-wave on Delhi and on medium-wave from Calcutta stations. Both these broadcasts are received well in Eastern India. The reception of short-wave broadcasts from Delhi may not be particularly good at and around Delhi because of technical reasons. No complaints about inaudibility of these broadcasts have been received from the target areas.

(c) Does not arise.

AIR NEWS BULLETIN ON FIRE AT SRINAGAR

910 SHRI GULAM NABI UNTOO Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING/सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Radio in its English bulletin broadcast at 3.30 hours on the 21st March, 1971 gave news item that Srinagar city was under heavy fire and that one thousand persons had been rendered homeless,

(b) whether it is also a fact that the same news was denied by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir,

(c) if the reply to parts (a) and (b) above is in the affirmative, what action has been taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING/सूचना और प्रसारण

मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI DHARAM VIR SINGH) (a) Yes, Sir. AIR broadcast a news item based on PTI report, that several houses and shops at Srinagar had been burnt and an estimated one thousand people had become homeless as a result of a big fire.

(b) A State Government official informed AIR that the report was not correct.

(c) The news item was immediately withdrawn and the attention of the Press Trust of India who had circulated the news item, was drawn to the inaccuracy.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS COMMUNICATIONS IN ANDAMANS

911 SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS/संचार मंत्री be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have drawn up a scheme involving Rupees 40 lakhs for improving post and telegraph communications in the Andamans, and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS/संचार मंत्री (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) (a) and (b) A scheme including the following proposals for the development and improvement of P&T facilities in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is currently under examination.

(i) Formation of a separate Postal Division for the administration of the Postal Services on the Islands. This would also enable the Islands to be regarded as a separate unit of recruitment for the clerical grades in the Post Office and would obviate the need to bring staff from the mainland.

(ii) Utilisation of all available steamer services both passenger and cargo, for conveyance of mails between the mainland and the Islands.

(iii) Utilisation of sailings of all Government vessels between the various Islands on other duties for conveyance of mail, between various post offices.

(iv) Opening of a floating mobile Post Office on an experimental basis by the inter-island steamer serving the Southern group of Islands.

(v) Improvement of the Wireless Telegraph and Radio links between the mainland and the Islands.

(vi) Provision of Wireless Telegraph/Radio Telephone links for inter-island communication working between Port Blair