

UNIONS IN A. I. R-

795. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unions which are functioning in A.I.R.;

(b) whether any of those unions have been recognised by the authority; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Two.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

FOREIGN CONTROL OVER THE INDIAN BROADCASTING

796. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :

SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA :

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign interests are gaining control over the Indian Broadcasting System;

(b) If so, what arrangements are being made to manufacture indigenous transmission and reception equipments; and

(c) what safeguards are being developed to minimize our dependence on the foreign countries in respect of satellite communications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Radio Transmission equipment is being manufactured in India and manufacture of TV transmission equipment will commence soon. Radio and TV receiver sets are also manufactured in India. This Ministry is exerting continuous pressure on agencies responsible for electronic industry in the country that manufacture

of this equipment should be indigenised and dependence on imports and collaboration arrangements with foreign firms should be done away with as quickly as possible.

(c) This Ministry holds the view that our broadcast and TV system should, for the present, be ground based and that it should be linked to satellite only after

we have built and launched our own satellite.

RESERVATION OF FREQUENCIES FOR U.S.A.

797. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

whether it is a fact that the Government of U.S.A. made a request for reserving certain frequencies free for exclusive communication with the three astronauts of Appollo-13;

if so, the number of frequencies;

whether any contact was made with the Appollo-13 during its return flight; and

(d) whether it affected the working of our broadcasting system in any way ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes.

Seven frequencies.

No.

No.

SPEEDY DISPOSAL OF POST CARDS

798. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

whether it is a fact that the Government have taken a decision to stop airlifting of post cards;

if so, the reasons thereof; and

what other arrangement has been made for speedy disposal of post cards?