

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had constituted a Group of Experts in this regard; and

(d) if so, whether the Group had submitted any recommendations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI JAGATHRAKSHAKAN) : (a) and (b) Government proposes to declare Film and Television Institute of India, Pune (FTII) as Institute of National Importance through an Act of Parliament. The Government has also undertaken a project to upgrade the infrastructure of FTII during 11th and 12th Plan period in a phased manner.

(c) and (d) FTII, Pune constituted a Group of Experts to help the Institute in preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for implementation of the upgradation of the infrastructure of FTII. The Group of Experts submitted its report based on which the DPR has been prepared by the Institute.

FM channels

3482. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN : Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public broadcaster Prasar Bharati has sought free land from all the State Governments to set up its own 500 AIR FM channels in over 250 towns under FM-III policy:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the idea is to operationalise AIR's FM Radio stations before the private media firms enter into this sector and Government has sanctioned Rs.140 crore for Prasar Bharati to set up 100 FM transmitters under the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI JAGATHRAKSHAKAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Phase-III of Private FM Expansion scheme has been recently approved by the Government for 313 cities. Out of these at 153 cities, AIR is either already having FM station or the same is in the pipeline. At 160 remaining cities, AIR does not have any FM

set-up except that 100 W FM relay transmitters are planned at 50 of these cities in the 11th Five Year Plan. Prasar Bharati is planning to provide AIR FM station with production facilities at all the 160 cities, and proposal in this regard is being framed for inclusion under 12th Plan. Out of these 160 places, land is required from the State Government at 153 places. Prasar Bharati has written a letter to the State Government of 19 states for allocating land free of cost to set up AIR FM channels.

(c) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati intends to augment its FM coverage. An amount of Rs.142.27 crore was sanctioned for the scheme of FM expansion during the 11th Plan, and the scheme is under implementation. Under this scheme, new FM transmitters of various capacities are being installed at 130 places throughout the country including 100 nos. of 100 Watt FM transmitter (Relay). Further, at 34 places the old transmitters are being replaced by new FM Transmitters.

(d) Does not arise.

Compulsory registration of marriages

3483. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the registration of marriages is being made compulsory;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether people have to go through cumbersome process for this registration; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to make the process easier?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its judgment dated 14.02.2006 in Seema Vs. Ashwani Kumar (AIR 2006 S.C 1158) has directed the State Governments and the Central Government that marriages of all persons who are citizens of India belonging to various religious denominations should be made compulsorily registerable in their respective States where such marriages are solemnized.