

Prasar Bharati has further informed that Doordarshan Commercial Service does not maintain the outstanding dues producer-wise, as business is being done by the agencies not by the producers. The details of the outstanding dues are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 223 Annexure No. 17]

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that regular efforts are made by Doordarshan to recover the outstanding dues which includes (i) reminders being sent to defaulting agencies to liquidate their outstanding dues; (ii) their Bank Guarantees being encashed and accreditation status being frozen and put on advance payment; (iii) legal action being initiated against the defaulting agencies; and (iv) arbitration/court cases being filed.

Transmission of AIR programme in rural areas

†2849. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether provision has been made for the transmission of AIR's programmes in far-flung rural areas;

(b) the attempts made to make AIR news extensively accessible as is still the prime source of information for the citizens living in far-flung rural areas;

(c) whether Government has fulfilled the demands of all the employees of AIR regarding payment of salary on time, allowances and their regularization; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that presently, AIR has terrestrial coverage (primary) of 91.85% (by area) and 99.18% (by population) which includes the rural as well as urban areas.

(b) The power of 28 Transmitters of AIR is being upgraded during Eleventh Plan. 297 Transmitters of various capacities are being installed throughout the country during Eleventh Plan. Reception of AIR programmes through terrestrial transmission in the uncovered areas shall be enhanced after implementation of the above schemes.

(c) and (d) The payment of salary and allowances is made in time to the employees of AIR. As per rules, there is no provision for regularization of Casuals in AIR.

Illegal activities by TV channels and newspapers

2850. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the illegal activities by the TV channels and newspapers owned by Rupert Murdoch as undertaken in UK and USA;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.