

Opening of new Doordarshan Kendra in Bodoland

†2841. SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Bodo language is on official language of Assam and is currently incorporated in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, and on the strength of it, Guwahati Doordarshan Kendra has been raising for long a demand to slot a two-three hour programme in the language;
- (b) whether neither the slot, nor the programme has, so far, been fixed; and
- (c) whether a new Doordarshan Kendra would be set up at Kokrajhar in Bodoland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that Bodo language has recently been incorporated in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. As per Assam Official Language Extent and (Amendment) Ordinance, 1984, Bodo language shall be used as an official language for administrative and other purposes in the Districts and sub-divisions having substantial Bodo population. Prasar Bharati has informed that Bodo programmes are telecast on Tuesday from 8.35 A.M. to 8.50 A.M. for 15 minutes; on Thursday from 8.35 A.M. to 8.50 A.M. for 15 minutes; and on Saturday from 3.00 P.M. to 3.30 P.M. for 30 minutes. Though there is a demand to increase the time slot for telecast of Bodo programmes, DDK, Guwahati is able to telecast Bodo programmes totaling one hour only per week due to constraint of allotment of time slot as well as manpower.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that there is no scheme to set up Studio Centre (Doordarshan Kendra) at Kokrajhar, at present. However, a High Power TV Transmitter is presently functioning at Kokrajhar which is linked to Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi and Programme Production Centre, Guwahati *via* satellite for relay of National service programmes and North East regional programmes.

New FM Radio station at Darjeeling

†2842. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to set up new FM Radio stations, across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is considering to start, earlier announced, Darjeeling FM Radio station soon;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, FM transmitters of various capacities are being installed by All India Radio at 278 places throughout the country. So far as Private FM is concerned, a new policy of expansion of FM broadcasting through Private Agencies (Phase-III) has been approved by the Government on 07.07.2011. The policy extends FM radio services to 227 new cities, in addition to the existing 86 cities. In all 839 new FM radio channels will become available under Phase-III in addition to the existing 245 channels.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The scheme of setting up of 10 KW FM transmitter with limited studio facility at Darjeeling was approved under Tenth Plan and is continuing under Eleventh Plan at a capital cost of Rs. 445 lacs.

Community Radio Stations

2843. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of community FM Radio Stations presently functional;
- (b) the details of licensees, State-wise;
- (c) the number of applications pending for community Radio Stations; and
- (d) when those applications were received, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) 113 Community Radio Stations are presently functional.

(b) This Ministry grants permission to set up Community Radio Stations and sign Grant of Permission Agreements (GOPA) with applicant Institutions/NGOs/SAUs and Krishi Vigyan Kendras. So far Ministry has signed 149 GOPA. State-wise detail of GOPA signed is available on Ministry's website www.mib.gov.in.

(c) 269 applications are pending for grant of permission to set up community radio station.

(d) State-wise list of applications received is available on Ministry's website www.mib.gov.in.

Ban on advertisements based on superstitious

†2844. SHRI RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

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