

News readers on contract

†1767. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that some new Hindi-English news readers have been recruited in All India Radio on contractual basis from different institutes:
- (b) if so, the criteria adopted to judge the quality of their news reading: and
- (c) whether any type of training was given to these news readers recruited on contractual basis, and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise. However, in so far as news readers in general are concerned, their voice quality and clarity, pronunciation and general awareness are monitored by the supervising officials. There is no formal and institutionalized system of training of news readers.

Neglect of DD (Urdu)

1768. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that DD (Urdu) is being neglected;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that a number of steps have been taken to promote Urdu language and culture on DD (Urdu) Channel. In order to have fresh software on DD (Urdu), proposals were invited from private producers. Out of 1047 proposals received, 580 proposals have been recommended by Evaluation Committee for commissioning. As of now 163 proposals are under process in various genres/categories like literature, Urdu Classics, Urdu Poetry, Urdu Journalism, Devotional Music etc. as per immediate requirement of the channel and final sanctions/approvals are being issued. Proposals on Urdu classics, Urdu novels and Urdu poetry have been included in the recommended list.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.