

Remedial measures, if any, in the matters relating to SAP are to be taken by the State Government concerned.

Appointment of Assistant Solicitor Generals

†*324. CHAUDHARY MUNABBAR SALEEM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Assistant Solicitor Generals who have been appointed by the previous Minister of Law and Justice;
- (b) the number of appointments out of the above which have been validated and invalidated by the present Minister; and
- (c) if invalidated, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The previous Minister for Law and Justice had approved the extension of the term of engagement of seventeen Assistant Solicitors General for two years and that of seven Assistant Solicitors General until further orders. He had also approved fresh engagement of four Assistant Solicitors General.

- (b) No change has been made so far in the engagement of Assistant Solicitors General approved by the previous Minister.
- (c) Question does not arise.

Vacancies in AIR

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

- (a) the details of various categories of vacancies in All India Radio;
- (b) whether it is a fact that shortage of staff has affected the Urdu services and programmes the most;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken to fill up the vacancies speedily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) The vacancies in different categories of posts in All India Radio (AIR) as on 01.01.2012 are as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Group (A)	1314
Group (B)	1596
Group (C)	3618
Group (D)	1934
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TOTAL:	8462

(b) and (c) The non-availability of language experts on the permanent rolls has some effect on the quality of Urdu programmes though services are being managed through engagement of retired personnel and through outsourcing. The duration of broadcast of Urdu services and programmes on AIR was only half an hour on 24th October, 1965 but has since been increased to 24 hours. The shortage of staff has arisen primarily because very little fresh recruitment has taken place since the formation of Prasar Bharati in 1997.

(d) The vacancies falling under promotional quota are being filled up by holding meetings of Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) periodically which is a continuous process. Under the Direct Recruitment quota, Government has recently granted approval to Prasar Bharati for filling up 1150 posts. Government has also recently granted approval for undertaking recruitment against Group B and C posts through the Staff Selection Commission as a one-time special dispensation, so as to enable filling up of the critical posts expeditiously.

Shortage of drinking water in North Eastern States

*326. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the districts in the North Eastern States are facing acute shortage of drinking water due to arsenic and fluoride contamination in ground water, especially in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government has received proposals from these States seeking financial assistance to provide safe drinking water facility;

(d) if so, the details of funds released, so far; and

(e) if no funds have been released the reasons therefor?