

Vacancies in AIR, DD, etc.

383. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that many of the posts in AIR, DD and all other allied services are lying vacant due to system failure of co-ordination between Prasar Bharati, DoPT, UPSC, and the Ministry; and

(b) if so, what are the number of vacancies at various levels and years of delay in filling the vacancies due to non-application of reservation policy and anomaly at various levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) and (b) No Sir, there is no failure of co-ordination between Prasar Bharati, DoPT, UPSC and the Ministry. There are approximately 14389 posts vacant in All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan (DD) in various categories. These vacancies have arisen due to retirement, resignation and death of officers and employees and matching direct recruitment not having taken place. Some of the promotional vacancies are unfilled due to prolonged and multiple litigations. However, the delay in filling vacancies is not due to non-application of the reservation policy and is due to other factors as mentioned below:

Direct recruitment could not be undertaken due to the following major factors:

1. UPSC has stopped undertaking direct recruitments for Prasar Bharati upon its creation as an autonomous corporation;
2. Non-finalization of Recruitment Regulations; and
3. Delay in setting up of Prasar Bharati Recruitment Board (PBRB) as envisaged in the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990.

The finalization of Recruitment Regulations and setting up of PBRB could not be taken up till 2010 due to resistance of employees against absorption in the corporation and consequent uncertainty in the status of employees.

Subsequently based on the recommendations of the Group of Ministers on Prasar Bharati (GoM), the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 has been amended in January, 2012 thereby settling the status of employees of Prasar Bharati. Both the proposals

of framing Recruitment Regulations for Prasar Bharati employees and setting up the PBRB are at advanced stage of inter-ministerial consultations. The Government has also recently permitted Prasar Bharati to fill 1150 essential vacancies in relaxation of austerity guidelines.

The instructions of the Government on reservation policy are being followed. Moreover, whenever any complaint is received relating to non-observance of these orders scrupulously, appropriate remedial action is taken.

Digitalization of cable TV networks

†384. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that around 146 million homes are using television in the country, at present;
- (b) if not, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that 51 per cent viewers are using cable TV and 25 per cent out of the remaining homes are using DTH and 25 per cent are using DTH in Government sector;
- (d) if not, the fact in this regard;
- (e) whether Government has made the digitalization compulsory by removing the current cable operation system by 31 December, 2014; and
- (f) if so, the possible outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) to (d) As per the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) KPMG Indian Media Entertainment Industry Report 2012, there are a total of 146 million TV households in India in 2011. Out of which, Cable TV Networks covers 74 million households i.e. about 51%, Private Direct to Home (DTH) covers 37 million homes i.e. about 25%, Doordarshan Direct to Home covers 8 million homes i.e. about 6%, remaining 27 million homes are covered by the terrestrial coverage of Doordarshan which is around 18%.

(e) As per this Ministry's Notification dated 11th November 2011, following the amendment of Cable Act by Parliament, it shall be obligatory for every cable