

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The broadcast service of AIR provided through 461 AM/FM transmitters installed all over the country has got terrestrial coverage of 91.87% area and 99.19% population of the country. Apart from this, 21 satellite radio channels (Programmes) for AIR available through DD Direct plus DTH platform (Ku band) are available all over the country except Andaman and Nicobar Islands. AIR Plans to provide coverage to 100% population of the country. In order to further augment the terrestrial coverage in the country, the power of 12 transmitters of AIR is being upgraded and 244 additional MW/FM Transmitters of various capacities are being installed throughout the country and the schemes are likely to be completed by 2013. Proposal for setting up of additional FM Transmitters of various capacities all over the country has also been made in the Twelfth Plan.

Regarding Doordarshan, all the areas uncovered by terrestrial transmitters, alongwith rest of the country, have been provided with multi channel TV coverage through Doordarshan's free-to-air DTH service "DD Direct Plus". New transmitters for expansion of terrestrial coverage are, now, not envisaged except a few in border areas.

Standard of Hindi news aired on AIR

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

(a) whether the standard of Hindi news aired on All India Radio has been declining as compared to earlier broadcasts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the newsreading standard of the regular newsreaders recruited here is put to testing ever again;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps being taken to improve Hindi pronunciation of newsreaders and to broadcast standard news bulletins?

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) to (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that the voice quality and pronunciation of Hindi News Readers are regularly monitored. They are advised from time to time about mistakes, if any, in their reading. Regular circulars/advisories related to pronunciation of names of places, persons etc in different languages are issued from time to time. Workshops are also conducted to improve their reading skills.

Monitoring of baseless and provocative news reports

387. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of baseless and provocative news reports published/telecast through the print and the electronic media in the recent past;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate any policy prescription to contain such menace;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when such policy is likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the other corrective measures taken/likely to be taken by Government in this regards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) to (e) In pursuance of its policy to uphold the freedom of the press, the Government does not interfere in functioning of the press. However, Press Council of India (PCI), a statutory autonomous body has been set up under the Press Council Act, 1978 to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in the country and also to inculcate the principles of self regulation among the press. In furtherance of its objective, the PCI has formulated 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for adherence by the media. Under the Norm 1 titled 'Accuracy and Fairness' it has been mentioned that the Press shall eschew publication of inaccurate, baseless and misleading material. In this respect PCI has registered 532 complaints on charges of baseless and provocative news reports published in print media since April 1, 2012.

The Press Council of India monitors and takes cognizance, *suo motu* or on complaints, of contents in print media which *prima facie*, are violative of Norms of