

Language captioning of TV programmes

1035. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to make same language captioning or subtitles mandatory for TV programmes produced and broadcast in the country for the benefit of the deaf and those hard of hearing;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal under consideration. However, Doordarshan News Channel telecasts a news bulletin for the hearing impaired from 06.15 to 06.30 A.M. daily using the sign language. Doordarshan also telecasts film songs based programmes with subtitles in regional languages e.g. Bengali, Punjabi, Gujarati, Marathi, Telugu, Kannada, Odia, Tamil and Hindi.

News papers and TV channels registered in the country

1036. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how many newspapers, TV channels and FM radio stations have been registered in the country; and

(b) the readership and viewership of these media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) The details of newspapers, TV Channels and FM radio stations registered in the country are given below:

Newspapers	94,079 (12,117 daily newspapers + 81,962 periodicals)
TV Channels	795
FM Radio stations	242

(b) The data is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.