

In addition to the above, the Government of India, under the aegis of the Ministry of Shipping, annually convenes the Maritime States Meetings in which all the Maritime States participate and deliberate issues relating to the security of Coastal States/UTs.

In the next annual Conference of Chief Ministers on Internal Security, a separate meeting of the Chief Ministers of coastal States/UTs on coastal security will be convened.

Setting up of DD news centre in Uttarakhand

†*205. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the States where Doordarshan news centres exist at present along with the names thereof;

(b) whether the Ministry is considering to set up a Doordarshan news centre in the State of Uttarakhand; and

(c) if so, by when a DD news centre is expected to be set up in the State and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TIWARI): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that there are 29 Doordarshan news centres in the country. The State-wise details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that a proposal to launch a DD news centre from DDK, Dehradun is under consideration. However, till the required infrastructure i.e building, equipment and manpower is in place, the timeline for establishing the news centre cannot be indicated at this stage.

Statement

List of Doordarshan News Centre

Sl. No.	Name of Doordarshan News Centre	State
1	2	3
1	Agartala	Tripura
2	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
3	Aizwal	Mizoram

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
4	Bangalore	Karnataka
5	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
6	Bhubaneswar	Odisha
7	Chandigarh	UT (Chandigarh)
8	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
9	Guwahati	Assam
10	Hisar	Haryana
11	Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh
12	Imphal	Manipur
13	Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh
14	Jaipur	Rajasthan
15	Jalandhar	Punjab
16	Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir
17	Kohima	Nagaland
18	Kolkata	West Bengal
19	Leh	Jammu and Kashmir
20	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh
21	Mumbai	Maharashtra
22	Panaji	Goa
23	Patna	Bihar
24	Raipur	Chhattisgrah
25	Ranchi	Jharkhand
26	Shillong	Meghalaya

1	2	3
27	Shimla	Himachal Pradesh
28	Srinagar	Jammu and Kashmir
29	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala

Probe into export of rice to African countries

*206. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI had sought permission to probe 20 senior officials of State Trading Corporation (STC), Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC) and Project and Equipment Corporation of India (PEC) allegedly involved in scam in rice exported to some African countries during 2008-09, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has denied permission to CBI to probe into involvement of these officials, if so, the reasons and rationale therefor; and

(c) the basis on which Government arrived at the conclusion that no criminal conspiracy/scam has taken place in export of rice to African countries in 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): (a) to (c)

- (i) In the matter of alleged irregularities pertaining to the export of non-basmati rice to some African countries in 2008-09 by the three Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) viz. State Trading Corporation (STC), Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC) and Project and Equipment Corporation of India (PEC) a Statement was given in the Parliament on 30th July, 2009 that these transactions pertaining to the period 2008-09 would be looked into and accountability will be fixed in case any omissions/commissions are established. Thereafter, the actionable points were identified and action, as discussed in the subsequent paragraphs, was taken.
- (ii) Department of Commerce (DoC) took action for blacklisting the three private sector firms, involved in these transactions. The debarment order was issued *vide* DoC Memorandum dated 10/11/2010. This was followed by an advisory issued by DoC to all Ministries and Departments of Government of India to abstain from conducting business with these firms. The above