

Awarding national artist status by Prasar Bharati

2737. SHRI P. RAJEEVE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati has given national artist status to any artist in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any guidelines have been adopted by Government or Prasar Bharati for this; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI) : (a) to (c) The Prasar Bharati has informed that 23 eminent music artists were conferred with the honour of National Artists in the year 2004. A list of these artists is given in Statement (*See below*)

The honour was conferred by Prasar Bharati on distinguished musicians who were on the panel of All India Radio and fulfilled the twin criteria of (i) 30 years seniority in Top grade and (ii) Attainment of 70 years of age.

Statement*List of national Artist awardees honoured in the year 2004*

Sl. No.	Name	Category	Parent station
1.	Pt. Bhimsen Joshi	Vocal	Pune
2.	Vidushi Kishori Amonkar	Vocal	Mumbai
3.	Pandit Jasraj	Vocal	Mumbai
4.	Ustad Sabri Khan	Sarangi	New Delhi
5.	Vidushi Sharan Rani	Sarod	New Delhi
6.	Ustad Bismillah Khan	Shenhnai	Varanasi
7.	Pt. Kishan Maharaj	Tabla	Varanasi
8.	Vidushi Gangu Bai Hangal	Vocal	Dharwad
9.	Pt. Ravi Shankar	Sitar	Mumbai
10.	Vidushi Lata Mangeshkar	Lt. Music	Mumbai

Sl. No.	Name	Category	Parent station
11.	Pt. Manna Dey	Lt. Music	Mumbai
12.	Dr. Bhupen Hazarika	-do-	Guwahati
13.	Dr. M. Balamurali Krishna	Vocal	Chennai
14.	Dr. M.S. Subbu Lakshmi	Vocal	Chennai
15.	Pt. D.K. Pattammal	Vocal	Chennai
16.	Pt. T. Muktha	Vocal	Chennai
17.	Prof. T. N. Krishnan	Violin	Chennai
18.	Dr. T. K. Murthy	Mridangam	Chennai
19.	Pt. M. S. Gopalakrishnan	Violin	Chennai
20.	Pt. Palghat R. Raghu	Mridangam	Chennai
21.	Pt. M.S. Vishwanathan	M. Composer	Chennai
22.	Dr. N. Ramani	Flute	Chennai
23.	Pt. Nedunuri Krishnamurthy	Vocal	Visakhapatnam

Monopolistic practices by MSOs

2738. DR. CHANDAN MITRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of monopolistic practices of certain Multi System Operators (MSOs) in the country especially in Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government proposes to introduce a cap on the market share of MSOs to stop monopolistic practices of MSOs;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government to curb the dominance of a single player in cable distribution sector across States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI) : (a) to (d) In order to ensure fair competition,