

**DD News channel in Uttarakhand**

†3891. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a proposal to start DD News channel in Uttarakhand is pending before the Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for its pendency;
- (c) whether it is pending due to non-availability of building for broadcasting of DD News; and
- (d) if so, whether DD News may be broadcasted from a single room as private channels are doing, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that no such proposal to start DD News channel in Uttarakhand is pending.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

**Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, 2014**

3892. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has held Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Conclave in 2014; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 12th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention was held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi from 7th-9th January, 2014. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports was the Partner Ministry for the PBD 2014. The theme of this year's PBD was 'Engaging Diaspora: Connecting Across Generations'. The then Prime Minister inaugurated the annual flagship event of the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on 8th January and the Hon'ble President delivered the Valedictory Address and conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards on 9th January on 13 distinguished overseas Indians for their notable contributions in different field.

Dato' Seri G Palanivel, Federal Minister for National Resources and Environment,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government of Malaysia was the Chief Guest of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held at New Delhi in January, 2014.

PBD 2014 had special sessions on youth on 7th January called the “Youth PBD”. Further, there were various sessions on India’s Growth and Development, India’s Soft Power, Issues of NRIs in the Gulf, Media and Entertainment Industry, Meeting of Diaspora Organisations, the PBD Oration, and sessions on Investment Opportunities in States, Innovation and Technology, Healthcare Opportunities in India etc. on the 2nd and 3rd days of PBD. Enthusiastic participation of nearly 2000 delegates from the diverse overseas Indian community spread across the globe and India made PBD Convention 2014 a successful event.

#### **Conducting of Youth Parliamentary Competition in West Bengal**

3893. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has re-imbursed any expenditure on conducting Youth Parliamentary Competitions in West Bengal over the past three years, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of Youth Parliaments that have been conducted in the State of West Bengal during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) No, the West Bengal Government has not preferred any claim for reimbursement during the last three years.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Efficacy of RTI Act**

†3894. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any study to determine the efficacy of the Right to Information Act, 2005; if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(b) whether many complaints have been received regarding rejection of applications requests under the Right to Information Act; and

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise and the action taken on the said complaints by Government?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.