

Telecast of Pakistan TV

†1747. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which complaints were received by Government during the last three years regarding telecast of Pakistan TV in the bordering districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of measures taken by Government in the last three years to check it; and

(c) whether Government plans to install high power transmitters in the bordering districts, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Ministry of Home Affairs and Prasar Bharati have informed that the signals/coverage of Pakistan TV is available in the bordering districts of the country. However, no complaints have been received during the last three years regarding telecast of Pakistan TV in the bordering districts of the country. Strengthening of TV coverage of Doordarshan to counter the anti-India propaganda along border areas is an ongoing process. Doordarshan has been assigning priority to expansion of their coverage in Border areas of the country in various expansion plans formulated from time to time Special packages for expansion and improvement of Doordarshan services in Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) have also been implemented in the past. At present, Prasar Bharati has informed that 112 TV transmitters of varying power are functioning in the districts near the Pakistan border.

(c) Prasar Bharati has also informed that to further strengthen TV coverage in J&K, a scheme has been approved in the Eleventh Plan. That *inter-alia*, includes projects of establishment of five High Power TV transmitters in J&K (Kashmir region-1; Jammu region-1; Ladakh region-1 besides 2 High Power Transmitters at Rajouri). Above projects are expected to be completed in phases, in about two years.

Broadcast of news by private FM channels

1748. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to allow private FM channels to broadcast news; and

(b) if so, under what conditions and from when?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.