

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.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Private FM channels have not been permitted to broadcast news under the existing FM Radio (Phase-II) policy guidelines. Under the Guidelines approved for FM Radio Phase-III, permission holders shall be permitted to carry the news bulletins of All India Radio in exactly same format, on such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed with Prasar Bharati. No other news and current affairs programmes are permitted under FM Phase-III policy. However, Broadcast pertaining to the certain categories like sporting events excluding live coverage, live commentaries of sporting events of local nature, Traffic and Weather, cultural events, festivals, topics pertaining to examinations, results, admissions, career counselling, availability of employment opportunities, public announcements pertaining to civic amenities like electricity, water supply natural calamities, health alerts etc. as provided by the local administration will be treated as non-news and current affairs broadcast and will therefore be permissible.

However, in view of the dynamic nature of news, the policy is reviewed from time to time.

Development of Panaji Doordarshan Studio

1749. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any plan to expand and develop Panaji Doordarshan Studio;
- (b) the items Government proposes for expanding and developing the studio and cost of each item projected and incurred;
- (c) whether Government proposes to allot required staff to the studio; and
- (d) the details of the staff strength at present, staff ideally needed to run such a studio and staff that Government proposes to give to the studio for proper coverage and for increasing the limit of duration of telecast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that as part of Continuing Schemes of Twelfth Plan of Doordarshan, projects of full digitalization of partially digital studio and upgradation of satellite uplink facility at Panaji are under implementation. The total approved cost of above projects is Rs.4.9 crore and Rs 2.30 crore respectively.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal to increase the duration of telecast in the said Kendra., The details of the present staff strength at Doordarshan Kendra, Panaji