

free to air through new technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it will be operationalised in the country;

(c) whether consumer can view all these free channels without any monthly subscriptions, particularly poor families, who could not afford to pay any monthly subscription fees;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(e) whether Government is seriously considering any strategy to view all free to air channels, without monthly subscription, particularly poor family, if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (e) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan is operating its free to air DTH service 'DD Free Dish' with a capacity of 64 TV Channels in its bouquet. All the channels are free to air and the viewers don't have to pay monthly subscription fee as in the case of Cable TV and Pay DTH.

Capacity of Doordarshan's DTH platform has recently been upgraded to 112 TV channels. Out of these, 64 Channels can be seen through now Digitally Addressable System (DAS) set top box.

Communication University

1057. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to establish a Communication University;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the time by which such a university is likely to start providing education in sectors related to media, films and animation; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to standardize the education system in the sectors related to journalism, media, films, animation and visual effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up a communication university. However, there has been a demand from certain sections of media that a communication university be set up to

meet the growing demands of all types of communication systems. In order to discuss the feasibility of setting up such type of institution along with its proposed structure and mechanism, this Ministry has initiated the process to hold the consultations with various stake holders. No time line has been fixed in the matter, so far.

(c) An Inter-Ministerial Task Force on Education in Media related courses, with representatives from the concerned Ministries and regulators as also persons of repute and eminence from the fields of Cinema, TV, print media, theatre and performing arts, has been constituted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) for the purpose.

Computerisation of Wakf record

1058. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in 2009 launched a scheme for computerisation of records of State Wakf Boards;

(b) if so, the present status of the same along with the reasons for very slow progress of data entry work and digitisation of records; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by Government for generating revenues from large number of idle wakf properties and use of these financial resources for socio-economic development of the community including starting schools, colleges and hospitals on wakf properties in a transparent manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Central Government had launched a scheme for 'Computerization of records of State wakf Boards' during 2009. As on date 3,61,336 Wakf properties have been entered in Wakf Management System of India (WAMSI) and Pre-digitisation work in respect of 1,26,380 wakf properties have been completed. The reason for slow progress is non-availability of records of many Wakf properties in the State wakf Boards.

(c) 'National Wakf Development Corporation Limited' (NAWADCO) was established under the Ministry of Minority Affairs on 31st December, 2013 under the Companies Act, 1956 with specific mandates to assist the State/UT Wakf Boards and Mutawallis to develop invaluable Wakf properties by building commercial and social infrastructure like schools, colleges and hospitals and to enhance the income of Wakf Boards/Wakf Institutions.