

(c) It came to the notice of the Ministry that two community radio stations had broadcast programmes, the content of which was *prime facie*, found in violation of Point (iii) of AIR Code and Clauses 7.6 and 11.2 of Grant of Permission Agreement (GOPA) *i.e.*, the licensing conditions. Therefore, show cause notices dated 10.02.2016 were issued to both the community radio stations.

Policy for appointment of correspondents in other countries

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

(a) the details of the procedure in place to appoint All India Radio and Doordarshan correspondents in the neighbouring countries like China, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Thailand and Myanmar;

(b) whether there is any such Government policy so that our correspondents can directly report from those countries; and

(c) if not, whether there is any plan to appoint Indian correspondents in these countries in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) At present, there are sanctioned posts of Special Correspondents of All India Radio and Doordarshan, belonging to Indian Information Service Group 'A', in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and United Arab Emirates only. Earlier there was another post of Special Correspondent at Kabul, Afghanistan which is proposed to be shifted at Beijing, China, subject to clearances from other nodal Ministries of the Government. The procedure being followed to appoint Special Correspondents in these countries is given in Statement (*See below*).

(b) Special Correspondents appointed in these countries file news directly to News Services Division of All India Radio and Doordarshan News.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

Statement

The following procedure is being followed to appoint Special Correspondents of All India Radio and Doordarshan abroad

(i) The Ministry invites applications from eligible and willing officers for the post of Special Correspondents in foreign missions.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (ii) Thereafter, shortlisted willing officers are called for personal interview before the Selection Committee headed by Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- (iii) The recommendations of the Selection Committee are placed before the Hon'ble Minister for Information and Broadcasting, being the appointing authority, for final approval of officers to be appointed as Special Correspondents abroad.

Worldwide Doordarshan India Channel

†637. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to start worldwide broadcasting channel of Doordarshan India on the line of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and its salient features;
- (c) whether Doordarshan India world channel would follow the guidelines issued by the Ministry or Ministry of External Affairs or it would be autonomous, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether India and Russia have agreed on strengthening relations in the field of information and broadcasting through exchange of media personnel, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (c) Prasara Bharati has informed that Doordarshan (DD) has a channel dedicated to overseas audience titled DD India which is available in Canada, USA and Mauritius. As of now, there is no proposal for revamping it worldwide on the lines of British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

(d) Yes, Sir. India and Russia have agreed to strengthen relations in the field of Information and Broadcasting in the following areas:-

- (i) Co-production of television programmes
- (ii) Exchange of TV programmes, News and Current Affairs
- (iii) Cooperation in training

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.