

**Illegal manufacturers of polythene bags**

816. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that polythene bags below fifty microns in thickness were banned in 2016;

(b) whether Government is aware that these banned polythene bags are still available in open market and are widely used; and

(c) if so, the details of Government's efforts to stop illegal manufacturing of these bags?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Ministry notified Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 prohibiting the manufacture, sale, storage, and use of carry bags and sheets of less than 50 microns. As per the Rules, the State Pollution Control Board and Pollution Control Committee are the authorities for enforcement of the provisions relating to registration, manufacture of plastic products, processing and disposal of plastic wastes. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has taken several steps to implement provisions of PWM Rules, 2016. CPCB has issued directions to Commissioners of 46 Million-plus cities and 20 State capital cities and 118 towns located on bank of Ganga river to prohibit manufacturing and use of sub-standard ( $<50\mu$  thickness) plastic carry bags (having handle or non-handle). Further, CPCB has imposed penalty of ₹ 1 crore under section "31" of Air Act, 1981, on Municipal Authorities of Delhi for non-implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 and Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

**International service of DD**

†817. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION and BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people working with the international service of Doordarshan (DD);

(b) details of the personnels working abroad; and

(c) whether Government is contemplating to widen the broadcasting/telecasting platform at the international level on the lines of BBC and propose to establish a separate Radio/Doordarshan unit to watch and analyse incidents through the Indian perspective?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has informed that there are 5 AIR News Correspondents, working abroad in the following countries.

- (i) Nepal (Kathmandu)
- (ii) Sri Lanka (Colombo)
- (iii) United Arab Emirates (Dubai)
- (iv) China (Beijing)
- (v) Bangladesh (Dhaka)

They give inputs to both All India Radio and Doordarshan.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that All India Radio is reaching global audiences digitally and through short wave transmitters. It has been decided by Prasar Bharati to augment the global outreach of All India Radio and Doordarshan through the new and emerging digital media platforms disseminating Indian point of view on contentious issues apart from projecting Indian culture, heritage, literature etc. in various Indian languages for which diaspora abroad always likes to hear.

#### **Registration of TV channels**

818. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of TV channels currently registered as on 1st January, 2019;
- (b) the number of registered TV channels which have 20 per cent or more ownership by a single entity or group; and
- (c) the list of such channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE): (a) to (c) The number of Private Satellite TV channels currently permitted by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as on 1st January, 2019 is 877. However, this Ministry does not maintain record of TV channels having 20 per cent or more ownership by a single entity or group.

#### **Mann-ki-Baat' on All India Radio**

819. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the total time taken in All India Radio and Doordarshan programmes;