

Method for approval of TV Serials

2289. SHRI KA. RA. SUBBIAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the method adopted for according approval to the TV serials;
- (b) the number of malpractices noticed by the investigating agencies for the past five years; and
- (c) the action taken by Government on the same?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The proposals for sponsored serials from outside producers are considered by a Selection Committee in Doordarshan taking into account, *inter alia* (i) content of the programme (ii) production value/quality of the programme, (iii) social objectives and programme requirement of Doordarshan and (iv) revenue earning potential.

The proposals for commissioned programmes are first evaluated by the Evaluation Committee. Thereafter, the shortlisted programmes are put up to the Costing Committee for final decision. The following factors, besides others, are taken into account in the selection of programmes under commissioned category:—

- (i) relevance of the story, theme, or subject to the needs of Doordarshan;
- (ii) treatment of the subject/storyline;
- (iii) conformity to the telecast code; and
- (iv) track record of the Director, Executive Producer, writer, crew etc.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Programme advisory Committee to oversee programmes' Content

2290. SHRI KA. RA. SUBBIAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any Programme Advisory Committee to oversee the programmes' content etc;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI

SUSHMA SWARAJ: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the existing guidelines, All India Radio stations originating 5-1/2 hours or more of programme per day are eligible to have a PAC.

(c) Does not arise.

Expansion of the Coverage of DD-II Channel

2291. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programmes of DD-II are being telecasted by the Doordarshan in main metropolitan cities only;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken steps to expand the coverage of the said channel;

(c) if so, the time by which the said channel is likely to be telecasted at State level; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir. At present, 82 transmitters of varying power, located in 33 States/UTs, are relaying DD-II programmes.

(b) and (c) For further expansion of DD-II coverage, 39 transmitter projects are presently under implementation, and are expected to be completed, in phases, during the remaining period of 9th Plan period.

(d) Does not arise.

Undue favour by Prasar Bharati to an Australian Company

†2292. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati has been giving undue favour to an Australian Company 'Nain Broadcasting' directly and indirectly since past some time and an objection also has been raised in this regard by Parliamentary Standing and Advisory Committee;

(b) if so, whether Government in view of the objection raised by both Parliamentary Committees, would take speedy action after conducting a proper

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.