

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): It is proposed to open 12 extra departmental branch post offices, subject to justification, in Bara Banki district of U.P. at the following places:-

- 1) Ourgapur Naubasta,
- 2) Jakariya
- 3) Taraganj
- 4) Sukhipur
- 5) Khairi
- 6) Majhiyawan
- 7) Karaundi
- 8) Hidayatpur Sipali
- 9) Mahamau
- 10) Bhatwawan
- 11) Bahrauli and
- 12) Budhera.

[English]

Telecast of Malayalam Programmes from Trivandrum

3985. SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Malayalam programmes telecast from Trivandrum Doordarshan are not available in North Kerala and the hilly areas of Idukki and Pathanamthitta;

(b) whether most of the South Indian states have already made arrangements for telecasting programmes in their vernacular

languages;

(c) if so, the whether the Government propose to expedite the process of extending this facility in all parts of Kerala;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS):

(a) Subject to local terrain conditions, parts of North Kerala and districts of Idukki and Pathanamthitta are covered by regional service programmes originating from Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum.

(b) arrangements for relay of regional service programmes originating from Doordarshan Kendras in the respective State Capitals are, at present, available in the Southern of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

(c) to (e). Establishment of facilities for early of regional service programme originating from Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum by all the TV transistors in the State of Kerala would depend upon availability of the requisite space segment capacity, adequate resources for the purpose and inter-se priorities.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Panchayats of Bihar

3986. SHRI MAHEDRA BAITHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to open post offices in various Panchayats in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose

to accord priority to Eastern and Western Champaran and Sitamarhi districts in North-east Bihar;

(c) if so, the time by which these are likely to be opened; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Post offices in rural areas are opened keeping in view financial, distance and population norms prescribed for the purpose. Panchayat Headquarters are given preference for opening of post offices subject to fulfilment of these norms.

(b) Out of a target of 250 branch extra-departmental post offices to be opened in Bihar during the year 1991-92, the target assigned for East Champaran, West Champaran and Sitamari districts are 5, 5 and 7 respectively.

(c) These Post Offices are expected to be opened by 31.3.92.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Negligible Broadcast of Hindi Programmes by Air, Dibrugarh

3987. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to negligible broadcast of Hindi Programmes by All India Radio, Dibrugarh in Upper Assam and poor reception of Vividh Bharati and other programmes, the entire area is deprived of the listening the programmes;

(b) if so, whether government propose

to install a low power transmitter at Dibrugarh for relay of Vividh Bharati programmes; and

(c) if so, the details of the plan and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRJA VYAS): (a) and (c). The All India Radio Station at Dibrugarh broadcasts programmes in a number of languages including Hindi. Hindi news bulletins and some programmes in Hindi are also relayed from Delhi. An integrated North-Eastern service functioning from Shillong also originates programmes in Hindi in addition to relaying National Programmes in Hindi.

There is no proposal to set up a transmitter at Dibrugarh for relay of Vividh Bharati programmes as the area does not fulfill the following criteria:-

- i) Size of the potential audience
- ii) Density of population and
- iii) Market potential.

Renewal of Interest by World bank for Power sector

3988. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has renewed its interest to finance the power sector in India;

(b) whether a high power delegation has made some negotiations with the Power finance corporation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?