

Hindi News Readers and Announcers

4389. Shri J. Sundar Lal: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Hindi News Readers and Announcers of the A.I.R. have got a very unpleasant and bad voice and at times annoying to the people, and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to change them and have a better staff?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri K. K. Shah): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Atomic Raw Material from Bihar

4390. Shri Shiva Chandra Jha: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar supplies various kinds of materials needed for experiments in atomic research in India at present and has tremendous unexploited natural potentialities for atomic work,

(b) if so, the names of these materials taken from Bihar at present and those which are still untapped and

(c) whether Government propose to start an Atomic Reactor in Bihar?

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shrimati Indira Gandhi): (a) and (b). The Copper belt of Singhbhum District in Bihar has been found to have high potential for uranium ores. The Jaduguda Uranium Mine has already gone into production. Other important deposits at Bhatin and Narwapahar are being explored and developed underground concurrently with the prospecting of a number of other deposits. There are also certain other atomic minerals like Beryllium and Lithium which have been exploited.

(c) There is no proposal to start an atomic reactor in Bihar.

Wall Newspapers in Villages

4391. Shri Yashpal Singh: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce 'Wall newspapers' in villages;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) when it will be finalised?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Shri K. K. Shah): (a) to (c). A proposal to introduce illustrated wall newspapers in regional languages, laying special emphasis on agricultural and current day problems of local and national importance, primarily to reach the rural population, is in a preliminary stage of consideration. The proposal will be finalised subject to funds being available and only after the results of an opinion survey, which is being conducted, clearly establish the utility of such a project.

Training of Naval Officers

4392. Shri Atam Das: Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Naval Officers are being sent to Washington for advance training;

(b) if so, the reasons for not setting up such a training centre in India during the last 20 years;

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up such a training centre in India, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence (Shri M. R. Bhagat): (a) Navy Officers are sent to USA for highly technical and advanced training in specialised fields not available in the country.

(b) The expenditure on setting up of training facilities and importing of expensive specialised training equipment would be considerable, as also