

Demands of Postmen of Bombay

3956. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum was submitted on October 31, 1991 to the Chief Postmaster General, Maharashtra Circle, Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Memorandum was received on 30th October, 1991.

(b) The memorandum contains items on mail box system, non supply of uniform item to newly recruited officials, dilapidated condition of post office building and regularisation of daily rated overaged employees.

(c) The Government's reaction there to is constructive.

Status of Prasar Bharati Corporation

3957. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether in considering the introduction of competition in electronic media, the status of the proposed Prasar Bharati Corporation according to Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, has been deliberated by Varadan Committee;

(b) if so, the result of the deliberation;

(c) whether Government is committed

to set up Prasar Bharati Corporation and what is the relationship between Broadcasting Council according to Prasar Bharati Act and Broadcasting Council for granting licences as proposed by Varadan Committee; and

(d) whether Prasar Bharati Corporation will be set up for taking over Doordarshan and A.I.R. before electronic media is laid open to competition?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). No specific recommendation has been made by the Committee about the status of the Prasar Bharati Corporation.

(c) and (d) Many essential formalities need to be completed and various steps taken before the Prasar Bharati can be established. This Ministry is seized of the issue. The Committee has recommended the setting up, through suitable legislation, of an independent authority comprising of eminent public men with unimpeachable probity which could be called the Broadcasting Council of India. The committee has also recommended that the provisions regarding the Broadcasting Council be appropriately taken out of the Prasar Bharati Act and made part of the new legislation which would entrust to the new authority (Broadcasting Council of India) among other things task of granting broadcasting licences.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Electronic Exchanges in Bhavnagar .

3958. DR. MAHAVIRSINGH HARISINGHI GOHIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Bhavnagar and since when;

(b) the time likely to be taken in replacing the machinery being used at the exchanges;

(c) whether Government propose to set up electronic telephone exchanges ; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Two telephone exchanges namely Bhavnagar Main and telephone exchange at Chitra. First 1800 lines of Bhavnagar main exchange were installed in August, 65 and exchange has been expanded subsequently to the present capacity of 9900 lines. First 600 lines of Chitra exchange were installed in March, 1987 and exchange twice to the present capacity of 1000 lines.

(b) The entire equipment of these two exchanges has not yet completed the prescribed life. Some of the life expired capacity is planned to be replaced in Eighth Plan.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 5000 lines of electronic exchanges in Bhavnagar are planned to be added during 94-95.

[English]

Radio Station at Kolhapur, Maharashtra

3959. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the setting up of Radio Station at Kolhapur, Maharashtra has been completed in all respects;

(b) if so, whether the same has started

functioning; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) . Though the new Radio Station at Kolhapur is technically ready, necessary staff required for manning the station is not in position. The Station is envisaged to be commissioned into service when the essential staff required for operation and maintenance of the Station is actually in position.

Use of Languages in Non-Hindi Speaking Areas

3960. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have directed to all Ministeries and Departments of the Government regarding the use of language on the name-boards, notice boards, etc. in non-Hindi speaking areas in Regional, Language, Hindi and English;

(b) whether Government are aware that these instructions are not being followed in Maharashtra ; and

(c) if so, steps the Government have taken or propose to take for the implementation of the instructions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Instances of these directions nor being followed in the Offices of the Central Government located in Maharashtra have not come to notice of the Central Government. However, the Officers of the con-