

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No Cinematographic film was purchased by Doordarshan during this period.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no Government policy for the purchase of films by Doordarshan.

(d) to (g). Do not arise.

#### **New Channels**

5770. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start 21 new channels of the Doordarshan in the near future;

(b) whether the existing five Channels are telecasting programmes of inferior quality; and

(c) the reasons for increasing the number of Doordarshan Channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir. There are a number of proposals on which Doordarshan is experimenting on the 5 transponders of INSAT 2B.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The new channels of Doordarshan were introduced in order to

provide programming to cater to the diverse interests of the widest cross section of its viewers.

#### **Staff Strength In Regional Passport Offices**

5771. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been consistent demand for increase in staff strength of Regional Passport Offices; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken and proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the increase in the work load of approximately 160% since 1980 when the cadre strength was last revised, the need for a proportionate increase in staff strength has been felt. Four hundred additional posts were sanctioned in 1992. This does not, however, meet the entire need for additional staff for Passport Offices. It is intended to propose the creation of further additional posts shortly.

#### **Import of Switching Equipment**

5772. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DOT had floated a tender for importing two lakh lines of switching equipment on a one time import basis during 1991-92;

(b) whether nearly one million lines have been ordered against this tender on direct payment basis and leasing/deferred payment basis;

(c) whether any norms have been violated in import of these lines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures adopted in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) DOT did not float a tender for importing 2.0 lakh lines of Switching Equipment. A tender was floated for procuring 2.0 lakh lines of Switching Equipment from the companies registered to manufacture the equipment in India and had RBI clearance to do so and the tender was in Indian Rupees.

(b) No orders were placed for import of Switching Equipment. Against the tender enquiry as given in (a) above, 4.4 lakh lines have been ordered on direct purchase basis. Equipment taken on lease was against a limited tender floated for that purpose and not against tender of 2.0 lakh lines.

(c) The above procurement does not amount to violation of tender norms. The tender was for 2.0 lakh lines of Switching Equipment and the vendors had quoted for this quantity. None of the vendors who were short-listed for commercial supplies got quantities more than this quantity i.e. 2.0 lakh lines. The direct orders placed were about 1.0 lakh lines per vendor. As such, there is no violation of tender norms.

(d) No decision was taken to violate the tender norms.

### **Programme Telecast by Madras Doordarshan**

5773. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be please to state:

(a) whether the programmes telecast by the Madras Doordarshan Kendra are not upto the mark; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### **Modernisation of Roads in Orissa**

5774. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the State roads in Orissa proposed to be modernised and expanded with the World Bank aid;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of assistance provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). Constitutionally, the Central Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country and all other