

Setting up of a T.V. Station at Coimbatore

6846. SHRI ERA MOHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up an independent T.V. Station at Coimbatore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, do Government propose to take necessary steps to set up a T.V. Station at Coimbatore in view of the increasing business and commercial activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (c). The approver Plan (1978-83), provides for a TV transmitter at Kodaikanal for relaying the programmes of the Madras TV station. When this transmitter is commissioned, Coimbatore is expected to be covered by it.

Publication of English and Hindi Monthlies "Bhagirath"

6847. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the existing arrangements for the publication and editing of the English and Hindi monthlies 'Bhagirath' of the Irrigation and Power Department alongwith the journalistic qualifications and experience possessed by their existing officers and members of the Editorial Board;

(b) whether the publication of both the English and Hindi, monthlies, 'Bhagirath' has slackened since last year and no meeting of the Editorial Board has been held during the year; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure timely publication of the magazines?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) The Central Water Commission publishes 2 magazines "Bhagirath" in English and "Hindi Bhagirath" quarterly through the publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The publication of English Bhagirath commenced in 1954 while the Hindi Bhagirath was started in 1974. The English Bhagirath has an "Editor" who has no specific journalistic qualifications but had the experience of editing Engineering Publications of the erstwhile Central Water & Power Commission for three years, after which he also worked as Assistant Editor of the same magazine for over 14 years. The Hindi Bhagirath has an Assistant Editor with post graduate qualifications in Geography and Hindi and diploma in journalism. For the English Bhagirath, there is no Editorial Board. There is an Editorial Board for the Hindi Bhagirath. A list of Members of this Board is attached.

(b) Both the English and Hindi Bhagiraths are being published quarterly with fair regularity except in the case of a couple of recent issues which were delayed on account of disturbance in power availability at the Government Press at Faridabad, where the magazines are printed.

There is no fixed schedule for the meeting of the Editorial Board of Hindi Bhagirath as it is expected to meet off and on whenever there are any problems which need to be decided by the Board.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

List of Members of the Editorial Board of Bhagirath (Hindi)

1. Shri N.L. Shankaran, Chairman,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of Irrigation,
New Delhi.
2. Shri Mahesh Chand, Member
Chief Engineer,
Central Water Commission.