

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that sailing schedules are irregular and documentation process is too much complicated for tourists;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to simplify the procedure and regularise the sailing schedules; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). The sailing schedules are drawn well in advance by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration. However, these schedules are deferred for a day or two due to adverse weather conditions or other technical problems.

There is no complicated documentation process for tourists.

Documentary Serials on River Valley Development

4185. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA :

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure for telecasting documentary on development programmes on Doordarshan Network;

(b) the number of documentaries on river valley development prepared and telecast during the each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Hindi serial 'Pani ke Akshar' has been discontinued;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to re-start it on Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Documentaries on Development Programmes are telecast by Doordarshan on its National Network as well as by its Regional Kendras from time to time depending upon the availability of programmes and time slots.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

Payment of Lease Rent by AI

4186. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India did not utilise the space available in Atma Ram Mansion of Connaught Place during the lease period from December, 1987 to October, 1994 but continued to pay the lease-rent to the owner of the building;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted any enquiry in this matter; and

(c) if so, the findings of the enquiry and action taken to check the misappropriation of public money in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) The space available in Atma Ram Mansion, could not be used by Air India from December 1987 to October 1994. The company, however, stopped payment of rent from September 1993.

(b) An inquiry into the matter has been instituted by the Government in pursuance of the direction of Division Bench of the Delhi High Court.

(c) The matter is sub-judice.

Rehabilitation of Workers in Closing PSUs

4187. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out detailed proposal to rehabilitate or offer alternative employment of personnel working in various Public Sector Undertakings which are likely to be closed down;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Central Government Undertakings dealing with leather and allied products have also been identified for closure without any substantial relief to existing employees; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The National Renewal Fund established by the Government in 1992, has been providing counselling, retraining and redeployment assistance to workers affected by technology upgradation, modernisation and industrial restructuring of Indian Industry through Employee Assistance Centres set up by the Nodal Agencies, in 49 locations spread over 16 States.

(c) and (d). According to available information from Deptt. of Heavy Industry, Tannery and Footwear Corporation (TAFCO), a sick Central Public Sector Undertaking, was referred to BIFR in 1992. The possibility of rehabilitating the employees of TAFCO by organising multiple small scale co-operatives were

explored. However, in the absence of any positive viable proposal, BIFR recommended for winding up of the company and forwarded its recommendation to Allahabad High Court where the winding up proceedings of the company are pending. The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985, provides for payment of compensation to the workers affected by winding up of a company.

Stoppage of Ahmedabad-Bombay Janta Express at Karjan Railway Station

4188. SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation for the stoppage of Ahmedabad-Bombay Janta Express at Karjan railway station (Gujarat); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Examined but not found operationally feasible.

Private Producers in Doordarshan

4189. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan has recently relaxed norms about the role of private producers in the making of new programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the rationale behind this relaxation;

(c) the impact of the changes on operational and financial position of Doordarshan;

(d) the details of the other proposals under consideration for other programmes on Doordarshan network;

(e) the new guidelines for dropping of anchor persons hosting shows on other private channels besides Doordarshan from the national network; and

(f) the difference between news programmes and current affairs programmes?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (b). Do not arise.

(d) Proposals from outside producers are considered under various categories depending upon Doordarshan's programme requirements and quality and contents of the proposed programmes.

(e) Persons anchoring Current Affairs programmes telecast on Doordarshan channels are not supposed to anchor any other programme on any channel other than a Doordarshan Channel.

(f) A new programme is similar to a news bulletin in which events and developments are reported as news items, whereas a current affairs programme presents the background and analysis of a current development in a field of activity.

Electrification of Railway Routes

4190. SHRI MURLIDHAR JENA :

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sanctioned the electrification of railway route from Kharagpur to Vizag via Khurda;

(b) if so, whether the first phase from Kharagpur to Bhubaneswar (320.kms) is proposed to be completed during 1996-97;

(c) if so, the progress as on date; and

(d) the expected date of the completion of the electrification of the entire route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. The section Kharagpur to Vizag (Vishakhapatnam) is proposed to be electrified in two phases as under :

Phase I : Kharagpur-Bhubaneswar section including Paradeep-Talcher branch line.

Phase II : Bhubaneswar to Vishakhapatnam.

(b) to (d) Electrification in first phase from Kharagpur to Bhubaneswar is planned for completion upto March 2002 and Bhubaneswar to Vishakhapatnam upto March 2002.

Casual Staff in Delhi Doordarshan

4191. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Assistants are working on casual basis for over 10 years in Delhi Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the category wise details thereof and the reasons for not regularising their services so far;

(c) the steps taken or propose to be taken by the Government to regularise these Assistants; and