

Government of India is prepared and circulated by Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Official Language every year for propagation of progressive use of Hindi in the official work and all Ministries/Departments and offices under their control are required to take action in context of the targets contained therein. It is continuous process.

(c) The meetings of the Hindi Advisory Committee of this Ministry could not be convened during last three years as the Committee was not reconstituted.

(d) The reconstitution of the Committee is under process.

(e) The Chairperson and the members of Minister's Official Language Implementation Committee do their official work in Hindi as per norms laid down by the Department of Official Language.

#### **Officers on Deputation in VSNL**

3252. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of persons who even after expiry of the period of their deputation are holding senior positions in Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited;

(b) the reasons for granting extensions to such officers, again and again; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken of by the Government to send such officers back to their parent offices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Only one person holding the position of Chief Financial Officer is in V.S.N.L. on deputation from the Department of Telecommunications.

(b) and (c). The Officer has joined V.S.N.L. in November, 1993 on deputation. Orders have already been issued for repatriation to the parent cadre.

#### **Air Stations**

3253. SHRIMATI M. PARVTI :  
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :

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

(a) the number of proposals/representation received for setting up/development of AIR stations from various States during the last two years and the current year, so far;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(d) the time by which these are likely to be set-up;

(e) the percentage of population likely to be covered therefrom in various States; and

(f) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (f). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Foreign Participation**

3254. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign participation in firms operating flights in India has been permitted; and

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the existing guidelines, foreign equity participation is permitted in the air transport services, upto a ceiling of 40%, on a case by case basis.

#### **Local Telephone Call Facility at Diamond Harbour Town**

3255. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Diamond Harbour town in Calcutta is without local call facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide this facility there; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Diamond Harbour Town is not part of Calcutta Metropolitan area. It has local call facility within its local area. Diamond Harbour is connected to Calcutta Telephone Network by STD facility.

(b) to (d). Does not arise in view of (a) above.