

Trikon, Hadoti and Shekhawati of Rajasthan are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the progress made so far alongwith the financial assistance proposed to be provided for these projects;

(c) whether the International Institutions have come forward for development of tourism;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d). The Department of Tourism has recommended three projects namely, the development of Desert Triangle, infrastructure Development of Mewar Region and Shekhawati Region to the Department of Economic Affairs for external funding. However, the proposal for the development of Hadoti in Rajasthan has not been considered.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Doordarshan/Air Projects

3270. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects pertaining to Doordarshan and AIR stations taken up and completed in different States during the current Plan period;

(b) the amount estimated for those projects originally;

(c) whether estimates are subsequently revised; and

(d) if so, the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred finally on completion of these projects?

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

[Translation]

Use of Hindi

3271. SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is lagging behind in use of official language Hindi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which Hindi Advisory Committee is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b). All steps are being taken to implement the provisions of Official Languages Act, 1963 and the Rules framed thereunder as well as various instructions issued by the Government from time to time.

(c) Hindi Advisory Committee of the Ministry was last constituted on 9.3.1995 for a period of three years. The vacancies of Members of Parliament will be filled upon receipt of nominations from the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Committee of Parliament on Official Language.

Telecom Facilities in Hilly Areas of Bihar

3272. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any special schemes to provide telecommunication facilities in the areas surrounded by the hilly chains;

(b) if so, the reasons for depriving the parts of Satganwan of Kodarma district and Ganwan of Giridih district of Bihar of telecommunication facilities;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide STD/ISD, facility by setting up a tower on the hill there;

(d) if so, the time by which these facilities likely to be made available; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Both the places are having Telecom facilities.

(c) (i) At present, at Satganwan STD facility is available on overhead line. There is a plan to provide it on reliable media via Satellite.

(ii) At Ganwan, STD facility has also been planned to be provided on reliable media, by setting up a tower there.

(d) and (e). These facilities are likely to be made available on reliable media during 1996-97 subject to the availability of equipments.

Speed Post Service

3273. SHRI O.P. JINDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the 'Navbharat Times' dated August 15, 1996 captioned, "Courier sevaon se pichadti ja rahi hai speed post";

(b) if so, whether the Speed Post Service of the Postal Department is deteriorating continuously in comparison to that of private courier services;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to take any concrete steps for making this service more comprehensive and effective; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no evidence of deterioration in the Speed Post Service in comparison to that of private courier services. In fact, traffic & revenue generated from speed post has increased impressively over the years which reflects satisfaction of the customers in general.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply in the (b) above.

(d) and (e). Government has taken a policy of consolidating the existing network of speed post instead of its unbridled expansion. A station is brought under speed post national network only when there is sufficient potential traffic to make it financially viable and when it is operationally feasible to provide a service standard compatible with speed post norms. Also, for better monitoring of the quality of service computerisation of processing has been undertaken in important cities.

[English]

Nepali Telefilm

3274. SHRI R.B. RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number and titles of Nepali tele-film scripts received during the last three years after the inclusion of Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) the number of scripts approved during above period;

(c) the number and names of films completed as on date; and

(d) the amount allotted and released so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) During the last three years, only one proposal for production of a telefilm in Nepali titled "Astitwa" has been received in the Central Commission Unit of Doordarshan on 12.04.1996.

(b) None so far, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Sugar Mills

3275. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of sugar mills are lying closed for a long time and as a result thereof thousands of workers are facing financial problems; and

(b) if so, the reasons for their closure and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to revive these mills?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) The number of sugar mills and the sugar seasons since when they have not reported the production are given below:-

Year from which production is not reported	No. of sugar mills
1967-68	1
1970-71	2
1975-76	1
1983-84	1
1984-85	2
1985-86	1
1986-87	1
1991-92	3
1993-94	6
1994-95	7
1995-96	10
Total :	35