

Increase in Duration of Kannada News

196. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the present duration of Kannada news bulletin by Bangalore Doordarshan; and

(b) whether the Government propose to increase this duration to cover more regional news to telecast second Kannada news bulletin to facilitate viewers abreast of the latest developments?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL-AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) 15 minutes daily

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

Wonder Loop

197. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
 PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR :
 SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Wonder Loop' appearing in the "India Today" dated September 30, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the economic aspect thereof.

(d) whether the Government propose to adopt this technology.

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news item captioned "Wonder Loop" appearing in the "India Today" of September 30, 1996 mentions regarding indigenously developed Wireless Local Loop System employing radio signals to link subscribers with Telephone Exchange. System has been developed by collaborative efforts of IIT Madras, an Indian Company and a US Co. The system has been installed at Chennai for trials.

(c) The economic aspect of the system is not yet known.

(d) and (e). Government has plans to introduce wireless local loop system in Telecom network. A generic specification giving requirements of such systems, has already been prepared. Such of those wireless in local loop systems which broadly meet with the requirements

are subjected to field trial if they are offered by the companies

(f) Not applicable in view of (d) and (e) above.

[Translation]

Report on Prasar Bharati Act

198. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
 SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :
 SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
 SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
 SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
 SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
 SHRIMATI BHAVNA BEN DEVRAJ BHAI
 CHIKHALIA :
 SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI :
 SHRI N.N. KRISHNA DAS :
 SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI :

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

(a) whether the Expert Group constituted on Prasar Bharati has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of the above group;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be implemented?

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

(b) The major recommendations of the Expert Group are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d). Government is in the process of wide consultation with various political parties/State Governments. Based on these an Amendment Bill will soon be introduced in the Parliament.

STATEMENT

The major recommendations relating to Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, of the Expert Group, are as under :

- Prasar Bharati to be a statutory corporation as envisaged in the Act;
- Akashvani and Doordarshan to be split into two completely separate wings, under the corporate umbrella of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, with close coordination in areas clearly defined by the Corporation;
- Prasar Bharati Board to be restructured with a full-time Chairman combining the functions

of Chairman and Chief Executive, six full-time members, four part-time members, representatives from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Managing Directors of Akashvani and Doordarshan;

Employees' participation in management below the Board Level;

Chairman of the Board to be appointed by the President of India on the recommendation of a Committee having Chairman of Council of States, Leader of Opposition, and Chairman of the Press Council;

Certain suggestions relate to the term of office of the Chairman, members, as well as recruitment and deployment of officers and other employees;

The Parliamentary Committee provided for in Section 13(1) to be despensed with, as its work can be looked after by the Standing Committee on Communications, the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry and by the proposed Radio and Television Authority of India (as directed by the Supreme Court);

Need to precisely define the areas in Section 24 in respect of which the Corporation will furnish information to Central Government;

An authorised share of Rs. 5,000 crores, paid up capital of Rs. 2,000 crores, and the assets of AIR and Doordarshan to be transferred on lease to the Corporation;

Annual grants-in-aid from the Government till Prasar Bharati becomes self-sufficient from advertising and commercial revenue.

Revival of an annual or lumpsum Broadcast Receiver Licence Fee for television sets.

The cost of running public service broadcasting channels to be met from Governments funding by way of grant-in-aid, equity or loan;

Certain suggestions relate to creation of professional marketing set-up, aggressive marketing strategies, and dedication of particular channels to education etc.

[English]

Bifurcation of Southern Railway

199. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bifurcate the Southern Railway into South Zone and West Zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the Palakkad and Trivandrum Divisions will lose their prominence due to the proposed reorganisation;

(d) whether Kerala is likely to get the due share of Railway development in proportion to the income likely to be earned from these Divisions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). No. Sir, Government has decided to set up six new Zonal Railway Hqrs. at Bhubaneswar, Allahabad, Hajipur, Jaipur, Bangalore and Jabalpur. The issue of Divisions losing prominence due to re-organisation does not arise.

(d) and (e). Railway investments are made keeping in view the traffic requirement, throughout Indian Railways. Investment decisions are not taken Statewise.

Electronic and Manual Telephone Exchanges in Haryana

200. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of electronic and manual telephone exchanges including their capacity in Haryana, district-wise.

(b) the number of telephone exchanges converted into electronic exchanges during the last three years in the State, district-wise.

(c) the number of new electronic exchanges set up during the last three years in the above State, district-wise; and

(d) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be converted into electronic exchanges and the number of new electronic exchanges likely to be set up during 1996-97 in the State, district-wise;

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Details are given in Statement-I enclosed.

(b) Details are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(c) Details are given in Statement-III enclosed.

(d) Details are given in Statement-IV enclosed.

STATEMENT - I

No. of Telephone Exchanges (Manual and Electronic) along with their capacity in Haryana

S. No.	District	No. of Manual Exchanges	No. of Electronic Exchanges	Capacity
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ambala	Nil	86	36660
2.	Yamuna Nagar	Nil	42	14380