

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4301  
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2005  
NATIONAL PRESS CENTRE  
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

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

- (a) whether the Government had decided to set up a National Press Centre in New Delhi during Eighth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, reasons for delay in execution of the project; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for expeditious implementation of the Project?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (c): The Scheme `Setting up of National Press Centre at New Delhi` had been included in Eighth Five Year Plan and continued in the Ninth Plan of Press Information Bureau (PIB). The project could not be taken up as the possession of encumbrance free plot of land was given by the Ministry of Urban Development in October, 2002.

A state-of-the-art National Media Centre is proposed to be set up at New Delhi with modern communication facilities for use of the print and electronic media as part of the Plan Scheme of PIB, during the Xth Five Year Plan. A plot measuring 1.955 acre has been allotted for the purpose at 7, Raisina Road. Rs.35.00 crore have been earmarked for setting up of the National Media Centre under the Scheme. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) in its meeting held on 25th January 2005 has approved the project. Since the project is located in Lutyens Delhi, its design and façade have to be planned carefully taking all sensitivities in account. The process of selecting a design has been initiated. The project is likely to be completed in twenty-four months from the date of commencement of construction.