

process of obtaining the versions is in hand, Competent Authority will then take appropriate decision.

- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) No, Sir.
- (f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Satellite T.V. Network in Uttar Pradesh

2900. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all the districts of Uttar Pradesh have been connected with satellite television relay network;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which all the districts of Uttar Pradesh are likely to be connected with this network?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Doordarshan Programmes are available via satellite in all the districts of Uttar Pradesh with the use of appropriate dish antenna system.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

National Children's Fund

2901. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government have set up the national children's fund;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent some proposals to the Union Government seeking grant from this fund; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the likely time by which it would be approved?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Children's fund was created by the Government of India in the International Year of the Child 1979 with a view to augment resources from the community and to utilise the interest thereof for assistance to voluntary organisations engaged in the field of child welfare/development for undertaking innovative projects specially designed to meet

the needs of poor families in backward areas particularly Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Five proposals have been received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding imparting training in fashion design and tailoring, TV Repairs, typing and shorthand, in Computers, and trainings for rag picking children. The guidelines for providing assistance under the National Children's Fund are under revision. The proposals sent by Government of Madhya Pradesh will be considered as soon as the revised guidelines are finalised.

[English]

Registered Newspapers

2902. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of newspapers and periodicals registered with the Registrar of newspapers which are actually being published, State-wise and category-wise as on March 31, 1998;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a large chunk of the papers so registered are actually not in existence/do not bring out the newspaper/periodical regularly;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposed to look into the problem of the healthy growth of print media in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The number of newspapers and periodicals registered with the RNI as on 31.3.1998, State-wise and category-wise, are given in statement-I and II respectively.

(b) and (c) The office of RNI does not have this information as the publishers of newspapers/periodicals are not required, under and provision of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1967, to intimate the office of Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI) about the closure of newspapers/periodicals.

(d) and (e) The Government is committed to creating a policy environment conducive to the healthy growth of print media. Steps taken by the Government in this direction include, among other things, the postal and telecom concession give to bonafide newspapers and newspaper organisations, duty exemption extended for import of visual media equipment and computers accreditation given to media representatives/organisations at Delhi to provide access to gather information from Government sources duty concession given in the recent Budget for import of newsprint, etc.