

Syrian Ban on STC

9431. SHRISANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had instructed the Indian Embassy in Damascus to urge the Syrian Government to lift its ban on the State Trading Corporation (STC) for three years;

(b) if so, the outcome of the efforts made by the Indian Embassy in this behalf; and

(c) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) to (c). The Indian Embassy, Damascus, was requested to take up the matter with the Syrian Government to lift the embargo on STC for dealing in Syria. The Indian Embassy, Damascus, has sought for some more information which is being supplied to them.

Petrol Smuggling

9432. SHRISANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether high Indian tariff of petrol has spurred smuggling from Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the effective steps being taken to check this smuggling?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). No instance of smuggling of petrol from Bangladesh into India in the

recent past has been reported.

[Translation]

Transmission Capacity and Range of Doordarshan Relay Centre of Ajmer

9433. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT. Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the transmission capacity and the range of Doordarshan relay centre, Ajmer;

(b) whether Government propose to set up a more powerful tower to increase the transmission range of this relay centre;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to build up a new relay centre in Beavar, Vijaynagar etc. towns of Ajmer District for the clear reception of the programmes, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) The TV transmitter functioning at Ajmer is of 100 Watt power, with a service range of about 25 kms including fringe areas where satisfactory reception is possible with the help of elevated antennae, boosters etc.

(b) to (d). Whereas a low power (100 W) TV transmitter has already been established at Beawar, there is no approved scheme at present either to augment the power of the TV transmitter at Ajmer or to set up another transmitter in Vijayanagar town. It is the endeavour of the Government to extend TV service to the remaining uncovered parts of the country as expeditiously as possible, dependent upon the availability of adequate funds for this purpose.