(a) the time allotted for regional Kannada news bulletin telecast on Bangalore Doordarshan everyday at present;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the news of the whole State are not being covered due to shortage of time; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIP.M. SAYEED): (a) Fifteen minutes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Every efforts is made by the Kendra to cover important/significant news worthy items of the whole state in the news bulletin in the available time. No enhancement in its duration is contemplated at present.

[Translation]

Regional Satellite Television Service

395. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of IMFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Low Power Transmitters through which regional satellite television service has been started;

(b) whether Uttar Pradesh has also been included in this category;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) 496.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. 48 LPTs in Uttar Pradesh are linked to DDK, Lucknow via satellite for relay of regional service programmes.

Addmission to Backward Class Candidates in Technical Institutes

396. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

 (a) Whether admission to candidates of backward classes in technical institutes, such as ITI is being given as per the reservation norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (d). There is no reservation for OBC Candidates in educational institutions including technical institutions so.far, but the matter is under active consideration of the Government. No time limit can be indicated at this stage.

[English]

Post Offices in Gujarat

397. SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI: SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any study to identify the villages in Saurastra region of Gujarat where there is no postal facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any scheme has been prepared by his Ministry to provide postal facility in all the villages of Saurastra region; and

(d) if so, the time by which all the villages will be provided with this facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, 3030 villages in Saurastra region are not having post office facility at present.

(c) Scheme called Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras has ben launched on pilot project basis in five States of the country. In this scheme, Gujarat Circle has been allotted a target of 50 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras which will be opened in those gram panchayat villages where no post office exists at present.

(d) There is no plan to provide the post office facility to all the villages of Saurastra region of Gujarat. However, post offices are opened progressively under plan schemes, subject to fulfillment of norms and availability of resources.

[Translation]

Telephone bills in Delhi

398. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several persons in Delhi have received telephone bills, who have not been provided telephone connections as yet;

(b) if so, the number of persons who have received such bills during the last three months and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Irregularities in Supply of LPG

399. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of irregularities in supply of gas viz. illegal supply of additional gas cylinders to hotels/sweet shops, black-marketing of cooking gas, illegal compromise of dealers and I.O.C.'s officials, delay in supply of gas cylinder to legitimate consumers, and non-payment of discount of rupees two to consumers by the agents under cash and carry scheme etc. in Uttar Pradesh and particularly in Kanpur; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). Some cases of domestic cylinders getting diverted for use by unauthorised customers through unscrupulous elements, have come to the notice of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited. So far no case of collusion of IOC officials with distributors for causing delay in refill supplies to legitimate customers or other irregularities has been established. No complaints of non-payment of cash and carry rebate under the cash and carry scheme by distributors have been reported to IOC from Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh.

Regular inspections and refill audit of distributorships are being conducted and wherever discrepancies are noted, action against the distributors is initiated as per revised Marketing Discipline Guidelines. [Translation]

Plan Targets in Uttar Pradesh

400. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the news item captioned "Uttar Pradesh may miss plan targets" appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated January 26, 1996;

(b) if so, whether the targets fixed for the development of the State during the Eighth Five Year Plan are likely to be achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the achievement of the above targets;

(e) the total amount allocated by the Government for development of the State during Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(f) the total amount released out of these so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In so far as targets based on resource mobilisation are concerned, only about 56 per cent has been achieved by the State Government in the years 1992-96 (at constant prices).

(c) The major areas of shortfalls in resource mobilisation have been in mobilising small savings, increased negative balances from current revenue (BCR), and raising additional resources through ARM measures.

(d) The State Government have been asked to raise additional resources.

(e) An amount of Rs. 21000 crores at 1991-92 prices was allocated for the Eighth Five Year Plan of Uttar Pradesh.

(f) Outlays approved for Annual Plan 1992-93 to 1995-96 (at current prices) are as under:-