

Power Transmission Corporation has formulated a scheme to raise Rs. 7,000 crores in foreign exchange during the Eighth Five Year Plan period from external borrowings to finance its projects; and

(b) if so, the extent the NPTC has been able to raise the foreign exchange and what are the projects that are likely to be funded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). Proposals of National Power Transmission Corporation for the Eighth Five Year Plan have not been finalised so far.

#### **Priority to Rural Communications**

4047. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to accord priority to rural communications; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated for it, if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to make telephone available practically on demand in the rural areas by the end of 8th Five year Plan (1992-97). Government have planned to provide telephone facility to all Panchayat villages in the country progressively by 31.3.1995. A total outlay of Rs. 6800 crores has been proposed for this work.

#### **Doordarshan Programmes to Neighbouring Countries**

4048. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:

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

(a) whether a huge investment plan is being worked out by his Ministry in consultation with the department of telecommunications to build up the infrastructure for extending the reach of Doordarshan programmes to the neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, the main features of the proposed plan; and

(c) the time by which the plan is likely to be implemented?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

#### **S.P.G. Cover to Former Prime Ministers**

4049. SHRI SHANKERSINGH VAGHELA:  
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SPG cover is being provided to former Prime Ministers, S/Shri Morarji Desai, V.P. Singh and Chandra Shekhar;

(b) the details of family members of these former Prime Ministers who are presently being provided SPG cover;

(c) the details of the family members of late Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Ministers who are being provided SPG cover;

(d) whether the family members of late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, former Prime Minister, are entitled for similar security; and

(e) what would be the additional financial burden to the exchequer, recurring and non-recurring, on account of provision of such security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). Under the provisions of Section 4 (1) (ii) of the SPG Act, the SPG is charged with the responsibility of providing proximate security to any former Prime Minister or to the members of his immediate family for a period of five years from the date on which the former Prime Minister ceased to hold the office of the Prime Minister. According to Section 2 (a) of the Act, 'members of the immediate family' means wife, husband, children and parents'. In accordance with these provisions, SPG cover has been provided to Shri Chandrashekhar, the members of his immediate family and that of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Shri V.P. Singh is yet to give his consent to protection by the SPG.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The anticipated cost of providing such security to former PMs and their families during the current financial year is Rs. 16.89 crores (non-recurring) and Rs. 6.20 crores (recurring) for six months of the year 1991-92.

#### **Special Courts for Crimes against SCs/ STs**

4050. SHRIMATI MARAGATHAM CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the State which have since set up their special courts after the passage of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act) 1989 to check atrocities on SCs/STs.

(b) whether the Government propose to take an early action persuading the remaining States to set up such courts; and

(c) if so, the nature thereof and the time by which the courts would be set up in all remaining States?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c). All State Governments and U.T. Administrations, except Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland, have specified special courts for the trial of offences under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

The State Government of Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have also set up six and three exclusive special courts, respectively.

The State Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland do not feel it necessary to specify special courts under the Act as there are no incidents of atrocities.

The Act does not extend to Jammu & Kashmir.

#### **Advance given by Doordarshan to Producers**

4051. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether several private producers received substantial amount from Doordarshan and the final product did not reach the Doordarshan even after a lapse of long periods;

(b) the number of producers and the amount involved during the last three years; and