

(b) The Group has been making recommendations to RBI from time to time. Some of the recommendations made by the Group covering areas like relaxation in broad investments opportunities available to RRBs, relaxation in branch licensing policy frame work, as also operational issues such as consortium lendings, relaxation in housing loans, fixation of interest rates to cover costs and application of asset classification, income recognition and provisioning norms have since been accepted by RBI for implementation.

INSAT-2A

6218. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Inter-Institute Communication network working through INSAT-2B has been snapped and the task has been transferred to INSAT-2A Satellite;

(b) if so, whether the research institute and Scientific Communication will not face serious problem jeopardizing our research;

(c) whether INSAT-2C will go only to Multinational Companies and Private Sectors;

(d) whether the Government would allow Inter-Institute Communications through INSAT-2C in the national interest; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The Education and Research Network (ERNET) link which was working through INSAT-2B was transferred to INSAT-2A for operational reasons as the particular transponder handling this link failed.

(b) There is no impact on the network itself except for a short term outage due to transfer operations.

(c) INSAT-2C is being used by Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and National Informatics Centre. DOT has licensed private Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) service providers to operate through two transponders in Extended C-band.

(d) and (e) INSAT System has four satellites in operation and individual networks are assigned particular satellites depending on technical requirements, operational plans and technical compatibility between networks sharing a satellite. The technical characteristics of INSAT-2C and INSAT-2A communication transponders are the same. It does not therefore make any difference whether ERNET operates through INSAT-2C or INSAT-2A.

Employment on Compassionate Grounds

6219. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have evolved any

criteria for providing employment to the dependents of those who expired while in central Government service, within a specified time period;

(b) the number of such cases where job is not provided within one year during the last three years and also the total number of cases where employment is not provided even after three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to avoid such delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIAN): (a) Under the existing scheme, appointment on compassionate grounds of a dependent of a Govt. servant who dies in harness depends, among other things, on the availability of a vacancy for that purpose. This stand of the Govt. has been supported by the Supreme Court rulings in the case of Himachal Road Transport Corporation V. Shri Dinesh Kumar dt. 7.5.96 (JT 1996 (5) SC 319) and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. Vs. Smt. A. Radhika Thirumalai dt. 9.10.96 (JT 1996 (9) SC 197). Hence, no time-limit has been specified for making appointment on compassionate grounds.

(b) and (c) The power to make compassionate appointment has been de-centralised and vests in respective Ministry/Department/Attached/Subordinate Office. As such, information in this regard is not centrally maintained.

Oil Exploration

6220. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exploration of oil and natural gas is done by Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) whether survey work in Bihar is being undertaken by a Geological Survey Party P.G.I. since 1986;

(c) whether the Rig Drilling Machine for the said work in Western Champaran in Bihar has been shifted to Sivsagar (Assam) due to which survey work has stopped;

(d) whether the Government to make Rig Drilling Machine available to Bihar;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both ONGC and OIL have carried out surveys in Bihar. OIL has undertaken a Remote Sensing Study and a High Resolution Aeromagnetic Study in Western Bihar with the assistance of Geological Survey of India.

(c) ONGC's drilling rig has been shifted out of Bihar