

sector undertakings to issue bonds in conformity with the guidelines of Securities and Exchange Control Board of India. For expeditious completion of some of the nationally important irrigation projects in the country, it was contemplated to provide special Central assistance to the States during the Eighth Plan period. Due to resources constraints, the Planning Commission could not accept the proposal and has suggested that the issue of funding for the nationally important projects be first discussed with the States as the overall national resource availability for irrigation sector is not going to change thereby.

[English]

T.V. Serial on Bible

4591. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to telecast the T.V. serial Bible Ki Kahaniyan; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (MR. UMARIGIRIJAVYAS):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The actual telecast of the serial by Doordarshan will, however, depend upon the completion of all the pre-telecast formalities.

Moderanisation of I.T.I. Ltd

4592. SHRIRABIRAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that he had discussions with his French counterpart recently on the modernisation issue of the Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an agreement has been signed between the two Governments; and

(c) if so, the main features of the agreement?

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

(b) No, Sir. Only a Joint Communiqué was issued.

(c) Does not arise in view of 'b' above.

Discharge of Sudden Water

4593 SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh requested the Union Government to probe into the sudden discharge of 3.69 lakh cusecs of water into Tungabhadra river on November 17, 1992 without any warning; and

(b) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir, there was an oral request.

(b) The matter was enquired and found that due warnings were issued to all concerned officers at each stage. Discharge from Tungabhadra Dam was gradually increased from 14770 cusecs at 18.00 hrs. on November 17, 1992 to 3.69 lakh cusecs at 11.00 hrs. on November 18, 1992 keeping in view the inflows and safety of the dam.