

Launch of Inst-2B and PSLV

[Translation]

1354. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHARS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when INSAT-2B and PSLV are likely to be launched;

(b) the estimated cost of those two satellites;

(c) the likely advantages of these two satellites; and

(d) the place from where these are likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVANESH CHATURVEDI): (a) INSAT-2B is expected to be launched in mid 1993 and the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) during the second half of 1993.

(b) The estimated cost of INSAT-2B is Rs. 78 crores and the cost for development and releasing of two PSLV flights is Rs. 414.96 crores.

(c) INSAT-2B will carry telecommunication traffic of Department of Telecommunication (DOT) and additional regional TV services of Doordarshan. It will also serve as an on-orbit back-up for the meteorological Very High Resolution Radiometer (VHRR), Search & Rescue services and Data Collection Services.

The PSLV is meant for launching IRS class satellites into 900 km polar Sun-synchronous orbit.

(d) INSAT-2B will be launched from Kourou, French Guinea and the PSLV launch will take place from Sriharikota (SHAR Centre).

Strengthening the Financial Position of Panchayats

1355. SHRIMATI KESHARBAI SONAJI KSHIRSAGAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any scheme to strengthen the financial position of Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities and Jila Parishads under the process of decentralisation of powers in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) if not, the other alternatives being contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

The following provisions have been made for strengthening the financial position of Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samities and Jila Parishads, in the Constitution (Seventy-second Amendment) Bill, 1991 relating to Panchayats, which has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament and is awaiting ratification by the State Legislatures:

(1) The State Legislatures may authorise the Panchayats to levy, collect and