

<i>State</i>	<i>No. of Satellite Earth Stations</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>No. of Satellite Earth Stations</i>
Arunachal Pradesh	26	Mizoram	2
Assam	1	Nagaland	3
Manipur	2		
Meghalaya	3		

(d) The networking requirement of the region is reviewed regularly and brought at par with demand from time to time for satisfactory working.

(e) Does not arise.

Decline in Viewership of Doordarshan News

1831. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:

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

(a) whether the number of viewers of Doordarshan News has declined considerably;

(b) if so, whether any study has been made by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the percentage of decline in the number of viewers of Doordarshan News both Hindi and English telecast at various timings; and

(d) the reasons identified for the decline in the number of viewers of Doordarshan News?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO):

(a) to (d). There is no change in the viewership of English and Hindi news bulletins in cities which do not get Metro Programmes. There is some decline in the viewership in the Hindi news bulletin in the evenings in the Metro cities, when there is a very popular programme on the Metro Channel.

National Highway in Karnataka

1832. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work on National Highway as sanctioned by the Union Government from Vidur to Shirangapattanam in Karnataka has since been started;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir. The road in question in Karnataka is presently forming part of the State Road network and the State Government is, therefore, primarily responsible for its construction/ devel-

opment etc.

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

[*Translation*]

**Theft and Transmission and
Distribution Losses**

1833. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Financial Express dated January 12, 1994 about increasing power theft in the country resulting into transmission and distribution losses;

(b) whether there is much scope of power theft in the existing power system and thirteen percent of the total power generation is being pilferaged;

(c) whether the loss to the State Electricity Boards due to theft of huge quantum of electricity is being met from the common consumers of electricity by increasing tariffs thereof; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYANAIDU): (a) Government have seen the newsitem.

(b) and (c). The average Transmission and Distribution losses in the country are about 23%. The losses of the State Electricity Boards are on account of variety of reasons such as unremunerative tariff, unbalanced capital structure, high establishment cost due to over-staffing, high transmission and distribution losses including

theft of energy, etc. The percentage of loss on account of theft of electricity is not estimated separately by the power utilities.

(d) The tariff for electricity is determined by the States /State Electricity Boards on the basis of their operational input costs such as fuel, wage increase etc. Various steps have been taken to check the theft / pilferage of energy and also to improve the efficiency of State Electricity Boards. It is obligatory on the parts of the Boards to earn a rate of return of 3% of the fixed assets. Theft of power has also been made a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910. The package of measures for improving the efficiency of Boards include, *interalia*, implementation of centrally sponsored renovation and modernisation schemes, introduction of incentive schemes for improving performance of thermal power stations, reducing transmission and distribution losses etc.

[*English*]

**Yamuna Nagar Thermal Power
Plant**

1834. SHRI TARA SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foundation stone was laid by the Prime Minister for the Yamuna Nagar Thermal Power Plant from Faridabad by a remote control;

(b) whether the construction of the Yamuna Nagar Thermal Power Plant has since been started;

(c) is so, the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(d) whether any foreign collaboration has been sought for the construction of this