

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Only ten percent of the time on the satellite channels of Doordarshan has been earmarked for auction of time slots in deference to the observations made in a judgement delivered by the Delhi High Court striking down the scheme for allotment of time slots on these channels on first-come-first-served basis. Actual auctioning would, however, depend upon the outcome of the appeal preferred by the Government in the Supreme Court against the said judgement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Hospital in Maldives Financed by India

635. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have undertaken to finance a multi-crore modern hospital project in Male, capital of Maldives;

(b) if so, the expenditure involved in the project;

(c) the time by which the hospital is likely to be opened;

(d) whether trained and experienced staff would also be provided by the Union Government for the hospital;

(e) whether the Union Government have also undertaken to provide facilities for training of Maldives nationals in

medical and other para-medical fields; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The expenditure involved in this project is Rs. 38.69 crores.

(c) At a ceremony held on February 2, 1994, the Hospital was handed over by Smt. Sheila Kaul, Minister for Urban Development, on behalf of the Government of Maldives. Once the commissioning process is over, the hospital is expected to be made operational in June 1994.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Under the Memoranda of Understanding signed between the two Governments, Government of India would provide 127 medical/para-medical/technical personnel to Male for deployment at the Hospital, and is also committed to provide training to a total of 147 Maldivian nationals in the relevant institutions in India during the period 1991-1997.

[Translation]

Widening of National Highway No. 2

636. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made so far regarding conversion of National Highway No. 2 between Mathura and Agra into four lane highway; and