

(b) The meeting was attended by lady Members of Parliament, members of the consultative Committee of MPs attached to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, members of the National Commission for Women, Chairman and Members of the Censor Board, representatives of the film industry and cable TV operators' associations and media critics.

The meeting discussed matters relating to film censorship against the background of the growing concern in Parliament about the adverse effects on society of the display of sex and violence in films and on Television. The unanimous opinion that emerged at the meeting was that the rising trend of sex and vulgarity in films, especially in film songs shown on Doordarshan, and excessive violence in films should be arrested forthwith. Most participants including Hon. MPs discussed the functioning and role played by the Central Board of Film Certification in this recent trend in Indian Cinema and called for stricter implementation of censor laws, greater vigilance, revamping of the Censor Board and its advisory panels. Views were expressed for and against having a man from the film industry as Chairman of the Censor Board. The Chairman of the Censor Board pointed out that in the past certain songs were shown on Doordarshan even before the concerned films were certified. This has now been stopped. The difficulties being faced by the film industry, namely, the rising challenge of the small screen that made theatres uneconomical, high incidence of entertainment tax and a lack of any institutional support for films that fail at the box office, were also expressed. A view was also expressed that the industry be freed from censorship laws and the producers/directors made directly responsible for controlling vulgarity in films through self-censorship.

(c) Steps have been taken to ensure that uncertified songs are not shown on the small screen. The Indian High Commission in Hongkong has been approached to impress on the Hongkong authorities to advise STAR TV to desist from telecasting towards India, songs and clips from Hindi films that have not been certified by the Censor Board. Instructions have also been issued to the Central Board of Film Certification to ensure that guidelines especially relating to sex and violence are strictly adhered to, so that certified films do not attract charges of obscenity and excessive violence. Efforts will also be made to increase the representation of women upto 50 per cent while reconstituting the Board and its advisory panels.

As regards Television, Doordarshan programmes are exempted from censorship. However, Doordarshan has decided not to accept any film based material for telecast unless it bears a certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification. In addition, the preview procedure for programmes to be telecast on Doordarshan-II and Doordarshan-I have been tightened. In non-film based programmes, scenes which offend public decency or those not produced in conformity with the broadcast code are deleted before telecast.

### **Chamera Power Project**

62. SHRI GUMAN MAL  
LODHA:  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first phase in the construction of Chamera project under the National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation is on Schedule;

(b) whether the construction cost of this project has ascalated several times as compared to the original cost;

(c) if so, the extent of escalation in the cost;

(d) whether the Government have inquired into the causes for such escalation;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the per megawatt cost of power generation likely to be incurred under this project; and

(g) the extent by which the said cost is more than the general hydel power generation cost so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Construction of the first stage of Chamera Hydro-electric Project, comprising of three units of 180 MW each has been completed in March, 1994 as against the original commissioning schedule of March, 1990.

(b) and (c). The construction cost of the project, including its associated transmission system, has increased from Rs. 809.29 crores to Rs. 2400 crore.

(d) and (e). The escalation in the cost of the project has been due mainly to the additional time taken for completion of civil works on account of unforeseen geological problems leading to price escalation as well as increased liability on borrowed capital. Besides, the project having been executed with financial assistance from Canada, exchange rate variations have also contributed to the escalation in cost.

(f) The cost per MW of installed capacity at Chamera works out to Rs. 4.44 crore.

(g) The per MW cost of hydel power plant depends on a number of factors including the location and type of project, the magnitude of civil works involved and the pattern/source of financing.

[English]

### **Rajdhani Channel Service**

63. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:  
SHRI ANNA JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced a new postal service 'Rajdhani Channel' between Delhi and various State capitals;

(b) if so, the names of the State capitals which are linked with Delhi under the said postal service;

(c) the main features of the new postal service;

(d) whether any additional charge would be collected for the said postal service; and

(e) if so, the amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Shimla, Jaipur, Bhopal and Chandigarh.