

(a) whether Government of India have decided that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes be provided with Vikas Pustika (Family Card) as recommended by the Parliamentary Committee on Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe; and

(b) the names of the States where this has been implemented and proposed to be implemented ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) and (b). A Vikas Patrika (identity-cum-monitoring Card) was prescribed in May, 1980 for monitoring, among other things, the impact of the IRD programmes on all beneficiaries including the SC/SC beneficiaries. By the end of the Sixth Plan, most of States had distributed the Vikas Patrika.

Multi-Functional Digital Television Sets

4963. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 722 on 18 April, 1984 regarding multi-functional digital television sets made by Japan and state :

(a) whether the report of the working group set up by the Department of Electronics on digital television has been received by Government;

(b) if so, the recommendations contained in the Report and the decision/action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) the likely date by which multi-functional digital television sets would be introduced/manufactured in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). Digital Television being an emerging technology, the foreign manufacturers have been reluctant to share information on its various techno-economic aspects, with the result, the Working Group set up by Department of Electronics has not been able to finalize its report.

(c) As the demand for analogue CTV sets has just built up, efforts are now being

made to make necessary components available indigenously. It will be too early to promote digital TV at this juncture.

Price of TV

4964. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether prices of both colour as well as black and white TV sets have risen by Rs. 1700 and Rs. 700 respectively due to the steep excise duty hike proposed in the 1986-87 Budget;

(b) if so, whether the increase on price of TV sets will affect the proposed programme of Government to provide facility of communication to the poor people; and

(c) whether in view of this Government are considering not to allow the manufacturers to increase the price of TV sets which has been the cheapest source of communication to the common man ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. In the Central Budget proposals for 1986-87, the excise duty on Colour Television (CTV) Receivers of screen size exceeding 36 cms has been increased by Rs. 600. A quick survey of prices made thereafter indicates that the prices of some CTV sets have gone up approximately by Rs. 660 to Rs. 700 or so, in Delhi. The rates of sales tax and other local taxes differ from State to State. The increase in market prices in different States would broadly vary accordingly. There is no increase in the excise duty on B and W TV sets of screen size exceeding 36 cms. Also the B and W TV sets of screen size not exceeding 36 cms continue to be exempt from excise duty (except for additional excise duty of Rs. 100, levied on all TV sets, in lieu of the abolition of the annual licence fee for TV Broadcast reception.

(b) No, Sir, as prices of B and W TV sets remain largely unaffected.

(c) Does not arise,