

telecast of the National Programme as well as the Asian Games from all the 41 TV transmitters in the country including the 21 coming up before the Asian Games.

2. Telecast of the Asian Games and National Programme was also expected to be provided in selected villages of Orissa Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra through Direct Reception Sets with the use of INSAT-IA. The service to these areas on Direct Reception Sets will be possible only after the launch of INSAT-IB.

Meeting of Representatives of Press at Delhi to Discuss Bihar Press Bill

311. SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY:
SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI:
SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

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

(a) whether Government proposed to convene a meeting of the representatives of the Press at Delhi to discuss the Bihar Press Bill;

(b) whether the meeting was called; and

(c) the grievances/apprehensions expressed by the Press and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) to (c). There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government at present. However, the leading Press Associations in the country have recently been requested to offer their views on certain aspects of the Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (Bihar Amendment) Bill, 1982. No replies have been received from the Associations so far.

Effect on Failure of Insat-IA on Communications.

312. SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI N. E. HORO:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the INSAT-IA's failure has affected the present activities of his Ministry;

(b) whether some programme started for future have also been affected;

(c) whether any alternative arrangements have been made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The INSAT failure has affected (i) the scheme of providing reliable telecommunication facilities to far flung places which cannot be connected easily through terrestrial links, and (ii) augmentation of circuits between Main Trunk Traffic Centres in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. Alternative arrangements are made to meet some requirements.

(d) Communication from five earth stations Aizwal, Port Blair, Car Nicobar, Kavarathy and Leh with Delhi and Madras through INTELSAT satellite has already stations Aizwal, Port Blair, Car Nicobar capacity lease from INTELSAT to work remaining earth stations set up under INSAT scheme has also been obtained. Stations are required to be tested by INTELSAT before we are permitted to use their spacecraft. Testing of the stations is commencing soon, we are ready for these tests and are awaiting the test programme from INTELSAT.