

places where migrant workmen are employed.

Andhra unable to supply power to Karnataka

2703. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh has expressed its inability to supply power to Karnataka since there is no surplus power in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the refusal by Andhra Pradesh to supply power to Karnataka, serious situation has arisen in Karnataka State; and

(c) if so, what steps Union Government propose to take to help the State Government for obtaining power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Andhra Pradesh has started supplying power to Karnataka with effect from 20-2-83.

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

Separate channel for commercial programmes

2704. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan is going to have a separate channel for the telecast of commercial programmes;

(b) if so, by what time and what will be the cost of another channel of Doordarshan; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to

(c). At present there is no such proposal. However, a Working Group set up by Government is to consider this question also and give its recommendations. A decision on the recommendations of the Group would be taken in due course, considering the relative priorities and availability of financial resources. No time-frame can be fixed for this purpose.

T.V. Centre at Gauhati

2705. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are going to have a full fledged TV Centre at Gauhati soon;

(b) if so, what will be its range and by what time it is going to start;

(c) whether Government are also thinking of having a TV Centre in North Bengal to cover Sikkim, Nepal and North Bengal; and

(d) if yes, by what time; and

(e) if not, the reasons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). A T.V. Centre with a 10 KW transmitter and programme production facilities is expected to be commissioned at Gauhati by 1984-85. It will have a service range of about 70 Kms.

(c) to (e). Low-power T.V. receive-cum-relay systems have been installed recently at Gangtok and Malda to provide service in areas of Sikkim and North Bengal respectively. At present, there is no proposal to set up any more T.V. centre in North Bengal during the Sixth Plan.