

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) Public telephones are opened either on departmental basis or on guarantee basis at suitable, accessible and convenient public places. While sanctioning a new public telephone it is ensured that no other public telephones exist very near it. In the case of a Guaranteed Public Telephone, the attendant undertakes the responsibility for its security and upkeep and undertakes to pay a minimum guaranteed revenue per month.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No such case has come to our knowledge. If details are indicated, the matter can be investigated.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Super Thermal Power Station in Southern Region

1496. SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA :
SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL :
SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised the project to set up a super thermal station in the Southern region;

(b) if so, the estimated costs of the project and time required for commissioning ;

(c) whether the location for this thermal station has been decided; and

(d) the expected generating capacity of this project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (d) Ramagundam Super Thermal Power Project in District Karimnagar of Andhra Pradesh has been sanctioned by Government of India in two stages of a total capacity of 2100 MW. The approved costs of Stage-I and Stage-II of the project including associated transmission lines are Rs. 575.28 crores and Rs. 549.98 crores respectively. The first 200 MW unit of the project is expected to be commissioned during 1983.

There is also a proposal to set-up a 2×500 MW Manuguru Super Thermal Power Station in Andhra Pradesh. The feasibility of the Project has not yet been established.

Regional Programme

1497. PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister claimed in a press conference on 2 June, 1983 at Madras that all the Chief Ministers favoured the national programme;

(b) how far his claim that all Chief Ministers favoured the national programme is true;

(c) is it not a fact that some Chief Ministers and other important persons have raised voice against the so called national programme ; and

(d) what steps to be taken to encourage the regional programme of national programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Views on the National Programme were sought from the Chief Ministers of States where full fledged TV programme production facilities exist. All these Chief Ministers as well as the Chief Ministers of several other States have favoured the continuance of the National Programme which was, in fact, introduced after its objectives and broad plans were discussed at the Conference of State Information Ministers held in July, 1982. The Conference had welcomed the proposal. Some Chief Ministers have, however, pointed out certain deficiencies in the National Programme and made suggestions for improvement. Steps are being accordingly taken to introduce suitable modifications in the National Programme.

(d) Due priority is always given by Doordarshan to the regional programmes. There has been no reduction in the duration of the programmes in the respective main regional languages of the various programme producing Doordarshan Kendras as a result of the introduction of the National Programme. The National Programme itself consists of quality items produced by the various regional Doordarshan Kendras depicting the social, cultural and developmental activities of the different regions in the country. In our country, which is so full of diversity, programmes broadcast over the media have to reflect the regional personality and also serve the national identity. It has also been clarified by Government that in telecasting the National Programme there is no intention of imposing any centrally produced programme on States.