

Sets are under installation. They are in addition to the existing community viewing VHF Sets in different States.

4. There is Research and Evaluation Cell attached to each of the Door-darshan Kendra in the INSAT Centres as well as in the post SITE Centres. These Researchers work as a team along-with the Producers right from formulation of programmes to their evaluation.

5. Under the INSAT Scheme, community TV is the main plank to give support to all developmental programmes in the field of agriculture, health and development. These community sets to rural will be fed by Area Specific Programmes based on the needs and requirements of the people as well as programmes of National importance which will bring in national integration and communal harmony, in addition to breaking of social barrier.

6. The language acceptable for the region for the Area Specific programmes with more visuals is being used.

7. However, INSAT Centres have been provided with Electronic News Gathering Equipment (ENG), which will be used for field based programmes and by this method the field demonstration programmes will increase significantly.

8. The ETV programmes in the INSAT States and also the post-SITE Centres has been divided into two age groups (a) 5-8 years, and (b) 9-12 years and separate programmes have been devised for each age group.

#### **Abolition of Sales Tax and Custom Duty on Newspapers**

2574. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether an All-India Small Newspaper Editors Conference was held in New Delhi recently, and it was

suggested to abolish sales tax and custom duty on newsprint;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) the other suggestions made to solve the problem of newsprint and the action taken by the Government thereon ?

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

(a) Press reports on the Conference have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) The matter of abolition of Sales tax on newsprint purchased by Small and Medium Newspapers has been taken up with the State Governments & Union Territory administrations and this is being pursued. Small newspapers have been exempted from paying customs duty on imported newsprint.

(c) No resolution or memorandum arising out of the deliberations of the All India Small Newspaper Editors Conference has been received by the Government. Hence no action can be taken at this stage on other suggestions, if any, regarding newsprint made at this Conference.

#### **Deterioration of Telephone Service in Raniganj**

2575. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware about the deterioration in telephone services in Raniganj; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a)