

Joint Venture Scheme

2902. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a second thought over the setting up of the joint venture company Measat Broadcast Systems Malaysia and Doordarshan for a DTH (direct to home) service;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the future of this joint venture company;

(c) the advantages likely to accrue to the Doordarshan from this venture; and

(d) the financial and operational implications of this venture?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d). The MOU signed between Doordarshan and Measat Broadcast Network System, Malaysia for the purpose has expired on 3rd August, 1996. The technical parameters, operational and financial implications of the project have not yet been worked out.

Increase of Accidents on Unmanned Level Crossings

2903. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of accidents have increased on the unmanned level crossings in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). The number of accidents at unmanned level crossings since 1993-94 is as under :-

Year	No. of accidents
1993-94	54
1994-95	54
1995-96	52

Meet on National Satellite Network

2904. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan Directors and Station Engineers all over the country have recently held a meeting regarding National Satellite Network;

(b) if so, the details of the agenda discussed and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the problems pertaining to Doordarshan Network in Maharashtra have also been discussed in the said meeting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) A Doordarshan Directors, Conference was held in November 96 in New Delhi in which various issues relating to hardware/software and other aspects of Doordarshan and various problems being faced by the Kendras were discussed. But, the issue of setting up of a National Satellite Network was not discussed in the meeting.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. No problem specifically relating to Doordarshan network in Maharashtra was discussed in the meeting.

(d) Does not arise.

Transfer of Refractory Units

2905. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to transfer the Refractory Units of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. to SAIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken to expedite the transfer process?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). At present there is no proposal under consideration of Ministry of Steel to transfer the refractory units of Burn Standard Co. Ltd. to SAIL.

Waiting List for Telephone in West Bengal

2906. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of persons waiting for telephone connections under different telephone exchanges in West Bengal including its total installed capacity and since when;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the installed capacity of the existing exchanges and setting up new exchanges;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?