

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?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of persons waiting for telephone connections category-wise as on 31.10.96 and total installed capacity in West Bengal, including Calcutta, are given below:

OYT	SPL	GENL	TOTAL
1339	2454	171978	175771

The total installed capacity is 777917 lines the oldest applicant waiting for telephone connection in Calcutta telephones is since 28.2.93 and in W. Bengal Telecom Circle is since 01.06.88.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir.

The West Bengal Telecom Circle and Calcutta Telephones propose to increase the installed capacity of the existing exchanges by 135300 lines during 1996-97. It is proposed to set up 64 new electronic exchanges in West Bengal circle and 37 new exchanges in Calcutta Telephones during 1996-97.

(d) The existing waiting list is likely to be cleared by March 1998.

Telephone Adalats

2907. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone adalats organised in Gujarat specially in Badodara, Bharuch and Panchmahal districts, during the last three years,

(b) the number of cases disposed of in these adalats during the above period, year-wise and district-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to organise such adalats during the next financial year also;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). No. of Telephone Adalats organised/cases disposed off are indicated below :

Name of the District/Circle	No. of Adalats held			No. of cases disposed off		
	93-94	94-95	95-96	93-94	94-95	95-96
1. Bharuch	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Panchmahal	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Vadodara	2	4	4	42	65	21
4. Gujarat Circle	21	20	20	385	507	386

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per DOT guidelines, Telephone Adalats are to be held quarterly by each Telecom District/Circle

(e) Not applicable.

Electrification of Railway Route

2908. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) the portion of railway lines has since been covered under the electrification programme;

(b) the plans of the Government in this regard for the period upto the year 2000; and

(c) the amount provided for this purpose in the current financial year and proposed to be provided for the subsequent years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) As on 31.10.96, 13035 route kilometre of track have been electrified on Indian Railways.

(b) About 2200 route kilometre are planned to be electrified upto the year 2000, provided that adequate funds are made available in time.

(c) Rs. 330.70 crore are provided during the current financial year and funds earmarked for the IX Five Year Plan i.e. 1997-98 to 2001-2002 are Rs. 1800 crore.

Introduction of New Train from Solapur to Bangalore

2909. SHRI RAJA RANGAPPA NAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to start new train between Solapur to Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to operational and resource constraints.

Introduction of Direct Train between Howrah and Ramagundam

2910. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand of the people of Ramagundam, Andhra Pradesh for direct train service between Howrah and Ramagundam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any representation have been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?