

[Translation]

Direct Local Call Facility

4666. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :
SHRI ADITYANATH :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start direct local call facility between Delhi and Meerut;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Not applicable in view of (a) above.

[English]

Telecast of World Cup Football

4667. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan has secured rights to telecast live the World Cup Football held in France;

(b) if so, the total costs incurred by Doordarshan to secure this right;

(c) whether the Doordarshan could not telecast live the World Cup Football despite securing such rights;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have received any complaints about the deferred live telecast by Doordarshan; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Swiss Fracs 393,750 in four instalments, have already been paid by Prasar Bharti, to Asian Broadcasting Union (ABU) towards TV rights fee of 1998 World Cup Football tournament. The invoice (value not known) for the fifth and final instalment is still awaited from ABU.

(c) to (f): A few complaints in this regard were received. Out of a total of 64 matches, 41 matches were telecast live and 23 were telecast deferred by one/two hours. Doordarshan could not telecast all the matches live due to other programme commitments/exigencies such as news bulletins, popular serials etc. and also for the reason that appropriate live coverage was required to be given to major sporting events like Sri-Lanka Independence Cup Cricket Tournament and Wimbledon—1998 which took place around the same time.

Revenue Earned by Thiruvananthapuram Doordarshan Kendra

4668. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by the Thiruvananthapuram Doordarshan Kendra on advertisements during 1997 and 1998 till date;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance the time allowed to the network programmes of Regional Doordarshan Kendras; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The commercial revenue earned by DDK Thiruvananthapuram is as under:

Year	Revenue
1997	Rs. 21.20 crore
1998 (upto June)	Rs. 11.36 crore

(b) and (c): Prasar Bharati have decided to increase the duration of the programmes being telecast from the various regional Kendras. In addition to the normal regional telecast of Kendras, two extra hours from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. have been placed at the disposal of the Kendras to telecast/mount programmes in regional languages.

Power Generation through Non-Conventional Means

4669. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of POWER be please to state:

(a) the details of power produced in the country by other than conventional means during the last three years and their cost per unit in comparison to the power produced by the conventional means; and

(b) the action being taken by the Government to increase the production of power through the non-conventional means?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) A total capacity of about 746 MW has been installed during the last three years in the country based on Non-Conventional Energy Sources. This includes a capacity of 615 MW from Wind; 89 MW from Biomass; and 42 MW from Small Hydro Power. According to information received from the States, 2.36 billion units have been generated during the period from wind power projects.

The cost of power generation from Non-Conventional Energy Sources varies from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 3.00 per unit depending upon the site, technology, type and size of project, the fiscal incentives available, and the means of financing. Taking into account the direct and indirect subsidies, environmental and social costs; and, other externalities, these costs compare favourably with the cost of conventional power.

(b) The Central Government provides capital subsidy, interest subsidy, fiscal incentives and soft loans from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA), for renewable energy power projects, based on wind energy, small hydro and biomass. Resource assessment studies and surveys are also being supported to identify potential areas for such projects. Further in pursuance of Guidelines of the Central Government, 12 States have so far announced conducive policies for wheeling, banking, buy back and third party sale to attract private sector participation in these projects.

Members in MRTPC

4670. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the members in the Monopolies Restrictive Trade Practices Commission do not have any judicial background and the orders passed by them lack judicial approach;

(b) whether the Government proposed to ascertain the opinions of retired judges etc. on the working and the approach of the members; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to make the approach of the Commission more judicial?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) The appointment of Members, MRTPC Commission, is made in accordance with

the provisions of Section 5(2) of the MRTPC Act, 1969. The said Act does not classify the Members as judicial or non-judicial. The judicial angle is provided by the Chairman who, as per Section 5 of the Act itself, is or has been, or is qualified to be, a judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court. The MRTPC Act also provides that the Members of the Commission "shall be persons of ability, integrity and standing who have adequate knowledge or experience of, or have shown capacity in dealing with problems relating to economics, law, commerce, accountancy, industry, public affairs or administration" with a view to bring cross-section of persons from diversified fields to deal with issues brought before the Commission.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Dues of NTPC and other PSUs towards SEBs

4671. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of outstanding dues to be recovered by National Thermal Power Corporation and other public sector undertakings from the State Electricity Boards as on June 30, 1998, State-wise;

(b) whether the problem has resulted into a financial crisis and critically accentuated the liquidity crunch position thereby affecting investment plans and execution of projects in hand;

(c) if so, the details of measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure realisation of outstanding dues from the State Electricity Boards alongwith results thereof;

(d) the agenda for action for the current year and the targets set for recovery of outstanding dues for the current year from SEBs; and

(e) the reaction of the State Governments to the proposed recovery measures by National Thermal Power Corporation from State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The State-wise details of the outstanding dues of the Public Sector Undertakings including National Thermal Power Corporation against State Electricity Boards and State Governments etc. as on 31 March, 1998 are enclosed in the Statement.

(b) Non-payment of outstanding dues of the Public Sector Undertakings by State Electricity Boards affects