

of 3 years. Doordarshan has earned a sum of Rs. 6.10 lakhs as a result of sale of these rights. Doordarshan owns the copy rights of these serials and can also telecast these serials on any of its channels.

Statement

List of Sponsored Serials telecast on Doordarshan which switched over to other channels during the last 3 years

S. No.	Name of the Serial	Name of the channels to which the Serials switched over
1.	Hum Log	SONY
2.	Reporter	STAR PLUS
3.	Ghutan	STAR PLUS
4.	Chandrakanta	STAR PLUS
5.	Good Morning India	STAR PLUS
6.	Wagle Ki Duniya	HOME TV
7.	Shanti	ZEE TV
8.	Swabhimani	STAR PLUS
9.	Meri Aawaz Suno	STAR PLUS

OECF Afd to Karnataka

4681. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned to Karnataka by Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund, Japan for forest development;

(b) the amount proposed to be released during 1998-99;

(c) the amount spent so far by the Karnataka Government; and

(d) the amount spent towards the foreign tours of officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABULAL MARANDI) : (a) The Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund, Japan has agreed to provide a loan assistance of Rs. 472.35 crores for implementation of a project for development of forests in Karnataka.

(b) The State Government has made a provision of Rs. 60 crores for project activities during 1998-99.

(c) An amount of Rs. 56.641 crores has been spent under the project from 1996-97 to 31st May 1998.

(d) An amount of Rs. 97.37 lakhs has been spent on foreign tours of officers under the project so far.

Ramgarh Gas Based Power Project

4682. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of the Rajasthan Government for extension of Ramgarh project is under consideration of the Government/CEA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which techno-economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority is likely to be issued;

(d) whether the single unit of GT is uneconomical due to low thermal efficiency operation; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Union Government are likely to be in a position to allocate additional 5 to 10 lakh cubic meters of gas per day for the said project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal of Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) for setting up of Ramgarh CCGT Power Project St. II (71 MW) was received in CEA in May, 1998 for techno-economic clearance. The scheme was examined and related as returned to Project Authority on 2.7.1998 as certain inputs such as fuel linkage, environmental clearance (Centre and State), National Airports Authority clearance, Compliance of Sec. 92(2) of E(S) Act, 1948 and updated present day cost were not tied-up.

(d) Yes, Sir. The single unit of GT is considered to be uneconomical on account of its thermal efficiency being lower than combined cycle operation.

(e) Rajasthan Government has requested the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOPNG) for allocation of additional natural gas of 0.5 MCMD. There is no decision yet.

[Translation]

Admission Fees in DU

4683. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some colleges under the Delhi University have been charging Rs. 3000 to Rs. 6000 as admission fees for admission in B.A., B. Com., B.Sc. etc.;

(b) whether some colleges have been charging the same admission fees from the students belonging to SCs/ STs as applicable to general students in violation of the Delhi University's Order No. A.C.A/1 waiving fees M.C. 81 dated July 23, 1981; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Delhi University against the Principals of such colleges who have violated the above said order of July 23, 1981?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Bidding of Power Projects

4684. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to invite bidding for 15 power projects totalling 75,000 MW within the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for bidding these projects; and

(d) the time by which these projects would be accorded clearance?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d): Action has been initiated for setting up large capacity power generation projects. Selection of the developer to take up these projects, would be generally done by inviting competitive offers. The modalities for setting up these projects are being finalised.

Degradation of Ecology in Mines

4685. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the open cast mines have degraded the ecology of the mining area;

(b) if so, whether a large number of trees have been uprooted in the region; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to check the degradation of ecology of the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) to (c): Opencast mining activities are generally associated with environmental degradation. Tree felling is kept to minimum number in order to check degradation of the ecology in the mining areas. Environmental management plans are prepared wherein mitigative measures like compensatory afforestation in case of forest lands, intensive plantation within the lease areas, reclamation and rehabilitation of mined out areas, construction of garland drains/check dams to protect run-offs from dumps are incorporated.

System to Regulate Airwaves

4686. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India had directed to set up a system to regulate airwaves in 1993 and the same has not been established till date;

(b) if so, the reasons for ignoring the directions of the Supreme Court and losses suffered by Government thereby; and

(c) the details of the other directions of Supreme Court of India not implemented so far?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c): Government have not received any direction from the Supreme Court in the year 1993 for regulating airwaves. However, the Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 9.2.95 in the case of Union of India Versus Cricket Association of Bengal had directed the UOI to set up an autonomous body for regulating the use of airwaves. Accordingly a Broadcasting Bill, 1997 was drafted and introduced in Lok Sabha on 16.5.97. However, with the dissolution of the 11th Lok Sabha the Bill got lapsed.

Telephone Connections

4687. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the demand *vis-a-vis* the existing capacity of telephone exchange of each Taluqua in Kutch District in Gujarat for telephone connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of waiting list pending for telephone connections in the district;

(d) whether the Government have any plan for upgradation of telephone exchanges in the district;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for the speedy allotment of telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The details of existing capacity of