

Adaptable Programme Lending' (APL) Scheme of the World Bank.

The first loan termed as 'Adaptable Programme Lending-I' (APL-I) is likely to be of the order of 150 million US Dollars. This loan is intended for high priority investments required in Transmission and Distribution System. The works envisaged under APL-I include augmentation of transformer capacity at different voltage levels (220 KV down to 11 KV) strengthening of linkages with the sub-stations, high accuracy and better quality consumer meters, feeder meters for energy audit etc. The loan may be disbursed subject to the Government of Andhra Pradesh fulfilling the conditionalities.

[Translation]

Films taken by Doordarshan from Private Companies

5697. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the films telecast by Doordarshan are taken from the private companies on paying certain amount to them;

(b) if so, the number of films supplied by the private companies which had been telecast by Doordarshan and the details of the films proposed by these companies and telecast by the Doordarshan during the last three years, month-wise;

(c) the total amount paid to the above mentioned companies for the films by the Doordarshan, separately and whether Doordarshan had some outstanding amount against these companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

FM Radio Station & HTV Transmitter at Jamnagar, Gujarat

5698. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sent a proposal to the Union Government for establishment of a FM Radio Station and a HTV Transmitter at Jamnagar in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the proposal has been accepted;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the FM Radio Station and HTV is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Autonomy to Media

5699. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken the final decision to privatise and to give full autonomy to Akashvani and Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the programmes and activities are likely to be improved due to privatisation and autonomy?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to privatise Akashvani and Doordarshan. However, full autonomy as envisaged in the Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act, 1990, has been granted to Akashvani and Doordarshan with the establishment of the Prasar Bharati with effect from 23.11.97.

(c) The Prasar Bharati Board has been constituted for the general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of the Corporation and the Board exercises all such powers in this direction and matters as may be considered necessary for improving the programmes and activities of the Corporation.