

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to properly maintain the Satellite telephone facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No telephone has been provided through satellite media in the villages of rural areas of the Purulia District in West Bengal. However, STD facility to two exchanges of Bagmundry and Pundag in Purulia district have been extended through satellite media. Both the systems are working satisfactorily.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

#### **Below Poverty Line**

667. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government have submitted any representation to the Planning Commission to revise the percentage of population below the poverty line in rural areas of Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has revised its estimate of the percentage of population of Karnataka below the poverty line;

(c) if so, the present percentage of the population of Karnataka below poverty line;

(d) the details of revision sought for by the Government of Karnataka; and

(e) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Chief Minister, Government of Karnataka in a letter dated 10.9.1997 addressed to the Prime Minister, suggested revision of the percentage of people below the poverty line in the State in the light of the price depressing effect of the State Government sponsored food subsidy scheme.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission considered the suggested revision in the context of the Targetted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS) and after eliminating the price depressing effect of the food subsidy scheme, revised the percentage of people below the poverty line in the State from 29.9 per cent to 30.6 per cent in rural areas, 40.1 per cent to 40.5 per cent in urban areas and from 33.2 per cent to 33.8 per cent for the State as a whole.

(d) As per the representation made by the Government of Karnataka, the percentage of people below the poverty line be revised to 32.33 per cent in rural areas and 40.52 per cent in urban areas;

(e) The Planning Commission has already re-estimated the poverty ratio of the State for exclusive use in the allocation of foodgrain under the Targetted Public Distribution Scheme.

#### **Micro Waves Linkage by Local DDKs**

668. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether local Doordarshan Kendras are allowed to book microwave linkage so as to receive programmes sent to them from various places;

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of arrangements for sending programmes covered by DD camera at various places to the Doordarshan Kendra, Kendrawise.

(d) whether Trivandrum Doordarshan Kendra is unable to send video slots and telecast news clippings on time; and

(e) if so, corrective steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan Kendras are allowed to book DOT microwave protection circuit with the prior approval of the competent authority.

(c) The arrangement for sending recorded programmes covered by Doordarshan at various places from Kendras is as under:

(i) Sending tapes by Road transport or air.

(ii) By booking of DOT microwave protection circuits.

(iii) By deploying the DSNG Uplink/TRAC at the OB spot in case of major coverages.

(iv) Earth stations are being used for regional network and for sending feeds for inclusion in National Network.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Allocation for Promotion of Non-Conventional Energy Sources**

669. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:

SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated and released during the last three years for promotion of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the funds released have been fully utilized; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MIN-