

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Fifty percent of the cost of the vaccine is charged from the cattle breeders under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Foot and Mouth Diseases Control".

- (b) Yes, Sir.
- (c) So far no such information has been received.
- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Foreign Investment in Telecom Sector

1693. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have prepared a major policy to attract foreign investment in the telecom sector;
- (b) if so, whether any concrete measures have been worked out in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which the policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) The Government have already announced liberal policy for attracting Foreign Investment in Telecom Sector as indicated below:-

- (i) Foreign equity participation upto 51% on automatic basis and more than 51% foreign equity through specific approval in the Telecom Equipment Manufacturing sector.
- (ii) 49% foreign equity participation in Basic Telephone Services is permitted.
- (iii) 51% foreign equity is allowed in E-Mail, Voice-Mail, On line Information and Data Retrieval, On line Information and Data Processing Enhanced/Value Added Facsimile Including Store and Forward, Store and Retrieve Services.
- (iv) 49% foreign equity is allowed in Cellular Mobile Telephone, Radio Paging, V-SAT, Global Mobile Personal Communications, Radio Trunking, Internet etc.
- (v) 49% equity in Investment Companies set up for investment in Telecom Sector is permitted. Investment by these companies in a licensee company treated as part of domestic equity and will not be counted against "Total Foreign Equity".
- (vi) Limit on External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) has been increased from 30% to 50% of the project cost.
- (d) Question does not arise.

Internet Services

1694. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. propose to set up additional routes in Maharashtra in order to enable to gain easy access to internet services especially in small towns;
- (b) if so, the time by which the same are likely to be set up;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government propose to provide toll free access over STD lines for access to Internet till such time VSNL set up gateways; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.
- (c) Additional nodes are being set up by DOT itself. The DOT Internet nodes at Kolhapur, Kalyan, Bhiwani, Jalgaon and Nanded are likely to be commissioned soon. DOT internet nodes at Nasik, Nagpur and Aurangabad are already working.
- (d) and (e) Govt. has decided to provide Access to the nearest node on local call basis instead of STD charges.

Recruitment of Staff for DD/AIR

1695. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR :

SHRI JUAL ORAM :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the recruitment of technical and other staff for Doordarshan and Akashwani Kendras is lying pending since long time;
- (b) if so, whether many Doordarshan and Akashwani Kendras are not functioning properly for want of sufficient technical and other staff; and
- (c) if so, the remedial measures taken for the recruitment of sufficient staff for the proper functioning of Doordarshan Akashwani Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Due to problems related to cadre restructuring and anomalies in the pay scale arising out of revision of pay scale of Engineering Assistants subsequent to a Supreme Court judgement, the recruitment to technical posts of subordinate Engineering cadres of AIR and Doordarshan could not be made after 1995.

- (b) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati has intimated that AIR