

[English]

Disturbance of DD Signals in Jammu and Kashmir

1753. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan's signals are disturbed due to cable operators manoeuvring and the people in border areas of Jammu and Kashmir are not able to watch Doordarshan Programmes; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to check this phenomenon and upgradation of transmission frequencies of Doordarshan telecasts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) The Prasar Bharati (Doordarshan) had been receiving complaints from cable subscribers about poor reception quality of Doordarshan channels. After examining the matter, the Prasar Bharati recommended amendment in the Cable TV Network Regulation Act to provide for installation of dish-antenna by cable operators for receiving Doordarshan channels and their distribution in VHF channels other than those utilised by Doordarshan for local transmission. This proposal of Prasar Bharati is under examination in the Ministry. As per latest survey report dated 31.12.1997, there are only 12 registered cable operators in the whole State of J&K operating in the towns/cities of Jammu, Srinagar, etc.

At present, Doordarshan has 2 studios and 45 transmitters in the Jammu & Kashmir State and schemes to upgrade the power of transmitters at Kathua, Srinagar.

Poonch and Udampur are under implementation. Six (6) very Low Power Transmitters are also under implementation at Batalik, Bafflaz, Darhal, Ringdom Gumpa, Trial and Turtok. Besides 28 more transmitters (HPTs 3 and VLPTs 25) are proposed to be set up in the State during the 9th Five Year Plan subject to availability of funds. Efforts are under way to secure more funds for strengthening the infrastructure in J&K.

[Translation]

Local Call Facility

1754. SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any proposal to provide local call facility in Gorakhpur, Khalilabad, Mehndawal and Basti districts in U.P.;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing this facility at these places so far; and

(c) the time by which this facility is likely to be provided in the said areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir. As per policy local call facility is provided within a short distance charging area (SDCA) which generally corresponds to a Tehsil, however, interdialling facility between adjacent SDCAs at 180 sec. pulse rate is also provided as per policy.

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

New Agriculture Policy

1755. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI DINSHAW PATEL:

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

SHRI RAJO SINGH:

DR. RAVI MALLU:

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE:

SHRI K.P. NAIDU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new Agriculture Policy to increase the production of agricultural produce and to solve the problems of the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) A National Policy on Agriculture is in final stage of drafting. It aims at the management and conservation of the natural resource base through sustainable management of land and water resources. It seeks to promote environmentally non-degrading, technically sound, economically viable and socially acceptable improvement of natural resources to promote sustainable development of agriculture.

The Policy will, to this end, seek to achieve:

- conservation of the natural resource base through sustainable management of land and water resources and protection and conservation of biodiversity;
- maintenance of food self-sufficiency;
- greater employment generation, higher household incomes and reduction of poverty through diversification of farming systems;
- reduction of regional imbalances through greater emphasis on rainfed farming and developing areas of untapped potential;
- strengthening of agricultural research and education;
- restructuring of agricultural extension to make it more demand driven and farmer accountable;
- efficient use of inputs;