

HPT at Warangal is, at present under implementation. Project is likely to be completed during 2000-2001, subject to timely completion of tower and civil works, construction of approach road to transmitter site and availability of other infrastructural facilities. The transmitter would be commissioned soon thereafter depending upon availability of requisite staff for its operation and maintenance.

[Translation]

**Doordarshan Centre at Mehar,
Satna in Madhya Pradesh**

3944. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Doordarshan Kendra has already been set up at Mehar in Satna District of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said Doordarshan Kendra is likely to start functioning.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Low Power TV Relay Centre is functioning at Mehar since May, 1995.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Telecast of Telugu Films

3945. SHRI M. RAJIAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Doordarshan Kendra, Hyderabad has stopped telecast of Telugu films since November, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to counter the popularity of private channels in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has reported that due to financial constraints, Telugu films on DD-8 were temporarily stopped. The telecast of the Telugu films has since been resumed with effect from 18th November, 1998.

(c) It is Doordarshan's constant endeavour to bring about qualitative improvement in its programmes with a view to sustain the interest of the viewers.

Liquid Propulsion Centre

3946. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government for

the expansion and modernisation of the ISRO liquid propulsion centre unit at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : The Liquid Propulsion System Centre (LPSC) Mahendragiri Test Facilities (LMF) in Tamil Nadu have been established primarily for testing the liquid propulsion engine and stages. At present based on our Programme requirements, the necessary test facilities for testing the cryogenic engines and stages are being established.

Suitable augmentation/modernisation of various facilities and restructuring of various activities needed for these programmes are done on a continuous basis. Necessary funds are being provided as and when required.

Cancellation of Programmes

3947. SHRI IMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of scheduled programmes to be telecast on several Doordarshan Kendras of Uttar Pradesh have been cancelled or stopped during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that no scheduled programmes as per fixed point chart of the Kendras in U.P. have been cancelled or stopped during the last three years except when important national or international events were relayed live by the National Network of Doordarshan or by the Metro service. However, such programmes were scheduled for telecast subsequently.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Flood Control

3948. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Barh Ayog for controlling the flood in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ayog has submitted its report to the Government; and

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Ayog and the action taken by the Government thereon?