

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and  
 (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Expansion of Doordarshan Network in the country is being carried out in a phased manner subject to availability of resources, infrastructural facilities and inter-se priorities. The Prasar Bharati envisages to set up a High Power Transmitter for DD-II Service at Aurangabad during the 9th Plan period.

- (c) Does not arise.

#### Indians in Greece

4071. SHRI D. S. AHIRE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether some Indians at port of Igoumenitsa in Greece were confined illegally;  
 (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for confinement; and  
 (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE) : (a) and (b) In the wake of reports in the Greek media about the discovery of 25 alleged illegal migrants from India having been locked up for 4 days in a truck, enquiries by the Embassy Of India in Athens revealed that a Greek truck was transporting illegal aliens on payment of a specific amount from Athens to Igoumenitsa. The Greeks involved in this operation disappeared before the local police could apprehend them. Greek Police, after breaking the lock of the abandoned truck found these 25 persons confined in a specially constructed hidden compartment.

- (c) There is no confirmation that any of the 25 persons found in the abandoned truck are Indian Citizens. Informal enquiries have revealed that the Greek authorities may have released the persons without filing any charges.

#### Lower Bhawani Projects Farmers Association

4072. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the date from which funds were released or to be released under the revised financing pattern of the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme to Lower Bhawani Project Farmers;  
 (b) the reaction of the farmers on the revised financial pattern;

(c) whether the Lower Bhawani Project Farmer's Association has submitted any representation to the Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(e) if not, the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme, Central assistance is provided to the State Governments for carrying out various activities under the programme. One of such activity is encouraging farmers participation in irrigation water management for which one time functional grant @ Rs. 500 per hectare (to be shared @ Rs. 225.00 per hec. by Centre and Rs. 225.00 per hec. by State and Rs. 50.00 per the hec. by Farmers Association) is provided for registered and functional Farmers' Associations since 1.4.96 in place of management subsidy used to be provided earlier. The central assistance is admissible in the irrigation commands covered under the Programme. The registered and functional Farmers' Association in Lower Bhawani Project are also eligible for such assistance.

(b) The Farmers' Association have shown a great interest to receive the grant as per the revised financing pattern effective from 1.4.96.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) and (e) The State Government has been requested to expedite the proposal for central assistance for the year 1998-99, which may include one time functional grant also.

#### STD Facility

4073. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether STD facility has been made available in all the telephone exchanges of urban and rural areas of the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise;

(c) the number of Takukas where this facility is not available so far, State-wise;

(d) the time by which such facility is likely to be made available in all the telephone exchanges of the country; and

(e) the number of telephone exchanges where this facility is proposed to be provided during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) No Sir. State-wise details regarding provision of STD facility to the exchanges in urban and rural areas in the country, are given in the enclosed Statement-I