

[Translation]

Construction of Doordarshan Relay Centres in U.P.

3724. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of Doordarshan Kendras at Almorah at Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh has been completed;

(b) whether the telecast of programmes from the newly constructed Low Power Transmitters at Didihat, Jorasis, Ranikhet, Dharchula etc. is stopped; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) While a Low Power TV transmitters (LPT) at Pithoragarh and a Very Low Power TV transmitter (VLPT) at Almora are already operational, a scheme is presently under implementation to replace the existing VLPT at Almora by an LPT.

(b) and (c) Though all the TV transmitters in Almora and Pithoragarh districts, except the VLPT at Didihat, are functioning normally, regular transmission from the VLPT, Didihat has been temporarily affected due to power supply failure.

[English]

Foreign and Domestic Private T.V. Telecast Channels

3725. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

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

(a) whether the Government have evolved any regulatory authority on foreign and domestic private T.V. telecast channels operating in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) fee/commission, if any, which Government collects from these telecast channels; and

(d) the basis for fixation of such fee/commission?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) Government have already introduced the Broadcasting Bill in the Parliament which provides for the establishment of an independent authority to be known as the Broadcasting Authority of India, for the purposes of facilitating and regulating broadcasting services in India including foreign and domestic private TV channels. The Bill is at present under the consideration of Joint Parliamentary Committee.

(c) These would be determined by the Broadcasting Authority of India as and when it is set up.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Steel by SAIL

3726. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the export of steel by SAIL during 1996-97 and 1997-98 upto June, 1997;

(b) the steps taken by SAIL to increase the profit;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve customer orientation and quality, improve asset utilisation and increase in export of SAIL;

(d) whether the delay in the commissioning of hot strip mill at Bokaro has affected the production performance of SAIL; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to complete it early?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) During 1996-97, SAIL exported 4.79 lakh tonnes of Steel while in 1997-98, up to June, 1997, 2 lakh tonnes of Steel and about 60,000 tonnes of Pig Iron were exported.

(b) and (c) SAIL is taking steps on a continuous basis to improve its performance, which include modernisation and technological upgradation of its plants, improving technological factors i.e. reduction in coke rate, energy consumption, metallic input, improvement in yield, captive power generation, extensive customer contact, market oriented product-mix, improvement in quality, long term relationship with customers, leadership in service and customer satisfaction, strict control and monitoring of operating costs, higher productivity and greater autonomy to field officers, etc. Besides, to increase exports, SAIL has adopted steps that include consistent export, sustained presence in identified market segments, value added exports, improved market intelligence, appointment of consignment agents overseas and development of warehousing and handling facilities etc.

(d) and (e) While the delay in carrying out modernisation jobs on the Hot Strip Mill (HSM) at Bokaro has affected the production performance, SAIL is taking steps to complete the HSM which include regular monitoring and coordination with the contracting agencies; providing necessary shut downs for execution; help in speeding up the supply of equipment and providing all necessary assistance to the contracting agencies etc.

Tariff Policies

3727. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tariff Policies of the Department of Telecom are to be revised;

(b) if so, whether this has become necessary because of the decreasing revenue per line;

(c) if so, the details of overall revenue per line per month upto January 31;

(d) whether there has been no increase in the tariffs since May, 1993; and

(e) if so, the time by when final decision for revising tariffs policy is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

P & T Housing Welfare Society

3728. DR. BALI RAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forestry department under his Ministry has not planted grass and trees in the parks near type I, II and III houses of the P & T Housing Welfare Society, Kalibari Marg, New Delhi;

(b) If so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Grass planting at Quarters type I, II and III has been done, process of planting of trees is in progress.

[English]

Merger of E.A.S. with Janmabhoomi In Andhra Pradesh

3729. SHRI K.S.R. MURTHY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has merged the Employment Assurance Scheme with Janmabhoomi Programme;

(b) the percentage of contributions made by the State Government as its share to the schemes like JRY, IAY, DWCRA during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(c) whether the Union Government are also aware that the selection of beneficiaries is done for the IAY, JRY, DWCRA on political considerations violating the Central guidelines in this regard; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed to be taken to check violation of Central guidelines by State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YARRANNAIDU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Percentage contributions made by the State Govt. under Jawahar Rozagar Yojana (JRY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) during 1995-96 and 1996-97 is as follows:

Programme	Percentage contribution by state Govt. to total allocation	
	1995-96	1996-97
JRY	20.00	20.00
IAY	20.00	20.00
DWCRA	28.85	57.51

(c) and (d) There is no provision in the guidelines of the above programmes for selection of beneficiaries on political considerations. However, as and when cases of violation of Central guidelines are received, the same are immediately referred back to concerned State Govt. to take necessary action.

[Translation]

Postal facilities in Gram Panchayats

3730. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of gram panchayats in the country where post and telegraph facilities have not been provided so far;

(b) the number of post and telegraph offices opened during 1996-97, State-wise;

(c) whether any time bound plan has been formulated for providing the above mentioned facilities in each gram panchayat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of gram panchayats in the country, where post offices have not been provided so far is 109331. Postal Counter facilities and facility of delivery of mails are however, provided to all villages through the nearby post offices.

The information regarding number of Gram Panchayats in the country where telegraph facilities have not been provided so far is being collected and will be laid on the table of House.