

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3329
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2003
COVERAGE OF WAR CRISIS
CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH;KAMAL NATH;SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL

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

- (a) whether the Doordarshan has decided to engage a private producer to provide its viewers coverage of the unfolding Iraq crisis as reported in `The Hindu` dated February 19, 2003;
- (b) if so, whether the Doordarshan`s own infrastructure is ineffective to cover the entire world news;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the terms and conditions including the amount of contract for engaging private producer for Iraq crisis; and
- (e) the benefits likely to accrue to the Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a), to (e): Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan has accepted a proposal received from M/s. Third Eye TV, New Delhi for a programme on Iraq War, titled `Gulf War – India cares, India counts`.

Due to the importance of the event which is of major international significance, it was felt that Doordarshan would benefit if noted journalists cover the event, keeping in view the Indian perspective, the presence of large number of Indians in that region. As a secondary and supportive measure, Doordarshan is also planning to send its own team with the private producer.

It is planned to telecast 20 episodes of 30 minutes each, five days a week at the rate of Rs.5 lakhs per episode, with inputs for the news bulletins. Doordarshan reserves the right to terminate the contract at 48 hours notice.