

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (d). No specific survey has been conducted by Doordarshan to assess the number of viewers watching TV programmes transmitted via foreign satellites whose footprint cover India. However, the Government are aware of the Studies conducted by MRAS-BURKE (Marketing Research and Advisory Service Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi) and ADMAR (Advertising and Marketing Research Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi) whose findings are not representative of the popularity of TV programmes transmitted via foreign satellites. There is no discernible evidence that on account of foreign TV programmes Doordarshan viewership has declined.

#### **Power Plant in Kerala**

\*361. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private sector has been entrusted to set up a 120 MW power plant in Northern Kerala.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any progress has been made for launching the project; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### **Central Water Commission**

\*362. SHRI MOTILAL SINGH:  
SHRI KAMLA MISHRA  
MADHUKAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints and suggestions received by the Government for improving the administrative system and efficiency of the Central Water Commission; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Complaints and suggestions received in regard to the functioning of Central Water Commission fall under the seven broad categories of topics.

(i) Regionalisation of Central Water Commission

(ii) Engineering officers engaged on non-engineering works;

(iii) Allegations of corruptions against certain officers of the Central Water Commission;

(iv) Publication of Bhagirath magazine;

(v) Common cadre review for engineering officers;

(vi) Transfer policy of Central Water Commission; and

(vii) Service matters of individual officers i.e. compassionate appointment.

ments, settlement of personal claims, etc.

- (b)(i) Some suggestions were received in this Ministry on opening of regional offices at specific places. These suggestions have been considered in the context of the overall regionalisation plan of the Central Water Commission.
- (ii) No engineering officer is deployed only for non-engineering works. However, some of the engineering officers at the senior level assist Chairman, Central Water Commission by sharing the responsibility of supervising the work of general administration of the organisation in the addition to their technical responsibilities.
- (iii) The complaints received from individual officers or appearing in some newspapers about any irregularities in the organisation are investigated.
- (iv) As regards publication of Bhagirath Magazines (Hindi and English) the journals are functioning satisfactorily and have been appreciated by subscribers, experts and Member of Parliament. Continuous efforts are made to improve the quality of the journal.
- (v) The suggestions regarding the common cadre review for all engineering cadres were considered in the meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Departmental Council, when it was agreed that all the cadre review proposals of Group A, B, C and D categories should continue to be processed separately.

(vi) The suggestions of the various Associations of the Central Water Commission on the transfer policy are considered and incorporated at the time of revision of the transfer policy, wherever possible, keeping in view at the same time the work requirements of the organisation also.

(vii) Efforts are made to settle individual claims speedily.

#### **Hindi Channel by Star-TV**

\*363. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI:  
SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:

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

(a) whether the Star T.V. network is negotiating with Indian T.V. companies to introduce Hindi channel in the country;

(b) whether the Government have since permitted the Star T.V. network to introduce Hindi channel; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARIGIRIJA VYAS):

(a) Some Indian companies have informed Government that they are negotiating with the STAR -TV the possibilities of leasing a transponder of ASIASAT with a view to telecasting Hindi programmes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.