

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for the indecent programmes and advertisements still being telecast over the Cable TV Network?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) and (b) Sections 11, 18 and 19 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 provides for an authorised officer by the State Government not below the rank of a Group 'A' officer of the Central Government. The functions of the authorised officer are :

- (i) Seizure of equipment being used by unregistered cable operators in contravention of Section 3 of the Act.
- (ii) Making complaints in writing to the court for taking cognizance of any offence punishable under the Act.
- (iii) Prohibiting any cable operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any particular programme if it is likely to promote, on grounds of religion, race, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, linguistic or regional groups or castes of communities or which is likely to disturb the public tranquility.

(c) Section 5 and 6 of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 provides that all the programmes and advertisements transmitted or re-transmitted through a cable service should conform to the prescribed codes. However, free to air foreign satellite channels have been exempted from compliance with programme and advertisement codes. Most of the foreign satellite channels available, today, in India are free to air and all of them, including pay channels, are uplinked from outside the country. Thus the existing laws do not provide for an effective regulation over these channels. In order to regulate the foreign satellite channels and bring them within the ambit of Indian laws and regulations. Government have already introduced a broadcasting bill in the Parliament.

#### **Films Produced by NFDC for Children**

\*338. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of films produced by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) for children during 1994, 1995 and 1996;

(b) whether all the above films produced by NFDC during above period were in Hindi;

(c) if so, whether the Government also propose to produce films for children in regional languages; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (d) The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) has not produced any films for children during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996. The Corporation however, produced feature films in various regional languages. Children's films are produced by National Centre of Films for Children and Young People (N'CYP) in Hindi and regional languages. During the years 1994, 1995 and 1996, 3 feature films, 1 TV serial (13 episodes), 2 short animation films and 1 puppet animation TV serial (17 episodes) were produced by N'CYP. Out of these, one feature film was in Marathi. Further 6 feature films and 1 short film were dubbed in regional languages.

#### **Delay in Disbursement of Matured Amount of National Savings**

\*339. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that inordinate delay is taking place in the post offices to disburse the matured amount of National Savings to the investors;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the speedy disbursal;

(c) whether the Government propose to enhance the limit of remittance of recurring deposit collections to the post offices by the MPKBY agents from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 50,000; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Payments under various National Savings Schemes are generally made in time. A few complaints have however, been received about delays in payment of the matured amounts.

(b) As an ongoing mechanism, the following steps are taken;

- (i) Immediate enquiries are made into the complaints and remedial measures are taken promptly.
- (ii) Surprise checks are made by the field staff to see that there is no delay in making payments to the investors;
- (iii) Instructions are issued from time to time to curb delays in the disbursal of matured amounts to the investors.

(c) No, Sir. No such proposal has been considered so far.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Setting up of Mini Cement Plants by NRDC**

\*340. SHRI THOMAS HANSDA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Agreements executed by National Research Development Corporation for setting up of Mini Cement plants during 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) whether NRDC has appointed some consultants for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the present status of cement plants for which Agreements have been executed;

(e) whether NRDC has terminated some Agreements and black-listed any consultant;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken to ensure smooth functioning of such cement plants for which machinery etc. were supplied by NRDC approved consultant and fabricator?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) has not executed any agreement during 1995-96 and 1996-97 for setting up of mini cement plants.

(b) and (c) NRDC has appointed six consultants and four fabricators for setting up of mini cement plants prior to 1995-96. The consultants are M/s. Paulsons Limited, Madras; M/s. Usha Mini Plant Corporation, New Delhi; M/s. Ganesh Industrial Service Agency, Ahmedabad; M/s. Jayems Engineering Co. Ltd., New Delhi; M/s. UAL Technologies, New Delhi and M/s. FACT Engineering & Design Organisation, Udyogmandal, Cochin. The fabricators are M/s. Laxmi Engineering Works, Udaipur; M/s. Minitch Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi; M/s. Jayems Perkim Pvt. Ltd., Bombay and M/s. Usha Mill Associates Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi.

(d) A total of 29 mini cement plants have been licensed by NRDC in the country during 1976-91, based on the know how developed by Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Jorhat, many of which are running successfully. According to the available information, 3 plants out of the 29 plants for which agreements have been executed by NRDC have reported problems.

(e) and (f) NRDC terminated the agreement with one consultant viz. M/s. Usha Mini Plants Corporation, New Delhi on 1.2.1989. All the State Financial Institutions have been advised by NRDC not to finance any mini cement plant where M/s. Usha Mini Plants Corporation, New Delhi has been chosen as a consultant by the client.

(g) NRDC has examined the performance of its various licensed mini cement plants and deputed scientists at its own cost, as and when reported, to suggest solutions for ensuring their smooth functioning, although it was not obligatory on the part of NRDC to provide such services.

[Translation]

#### Abolition of Contract System

3527. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to abolish the contract system to check the incidence of crime in Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Railways have not recommended abolition of contract system because there is no report to indicate that contract system is contributing to increase in crime.

[English]

#### Power Projects

3528. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government has intimated to the Andhra Pradesh that the Gadgil formula is coming in the way of Rs. 4,000 crore NTPC power project proposed to be set up in Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, whether Prime Minister had earlier given assurance to the Chief Minister that green signal and final clearance for the construction of this project will be given soon; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not giving the clearance to this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The setting up of the Simhadri Thermal Power Project (2x500 MW) in Vishakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh by National Thermal Power Corporation has been approved by the Central Government at an estimated cost of Rs. 3650.79 crores in July, 1997.

[Translation]

#### Removal of Fish Plates

3529. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of removal of fish plates have occurred frequently during the last four months in Bina-Vidisha section in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;