1995 and INSAT-2D on June 4, 1997. These two satellites have joined the INSAT space segment (INSAT-1D, INSAT-2A and INSAT-2B) enhancing the space capacity for telecommunications and television broadcasing. INSAT-2C and INSAT-2D have also added new capabilities like mobile satellite service, business communication through Ku-band and television outreach from Middle-East to South-East Asia.

Launch of Indian built Indian Remote Sensing Satellite-1C (IRS-1C) on December 28, 1995 and IRS-P3 satellite on March 21, 1996. IRS-1C the most sophisticated civilian remote sensing satellite in the world today, has provided further fillip to the application of remote sensing technology for resources monitoring and management. IRS-P3, besides the Indian remote sensing payload, carries Modular Opt-electronics Scanner for ocean remote sensing and an X-ray Astronomy payload.

Completion of the development of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) with its third and final development launch (PSLV-D3) conducted successfully on March 21, 1996 from SHAR Centre, Sriharikota. PSLV-D3 placed IRS-P3 satellite into the pre-determined polar sunsynchronous orbit. India is now capable of launching its remote sensing satellites from within the country.

Completion of the indigenous development of subscale (one tonne) pressure-fed cryogenic engine. This achievement has provided the impetus to the development of indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage which will be employed in India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

Initiation, on November 1, 1996, a two year pilot project, namely, Jhabua Developmental Communications Project (JDCP) for demonstrating the use of development communications and training for rural development on an end-to-end basis in the predominantly tribal district of Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh. Under this programme, 150 direct reception TV sets have been installed in as many villages which receive, via INSAT, specially produced programmes aimed at training and creating awareness among the people in the region, on better agricultural practices, land and water resources management, family planning, health, hygiene, etc. This project will provide the inputs for establishing a nation-wide GRAMSAT network.

(b) The programmes proposed to be implemented in the coming years are :

- Launch of Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-1D) by using India's own launch vehicle PSLV in September/October, 1997 or first half of 1998. IRS-1D, identical to IRS-1C, will further enhance the remote sensing services to various users including those in other countries who are already receiving IRS-1C data.
- Launch of INSAT-2E in 1998. This satellite will further enhance the capability of INSAT space segment to meet the growing demands of user-community. INSAT-2E will also include meteorological payloads which is more advanced than those on-board INSAT-2A and INSAT-2B. An equivalent of eleven 36 MHz C-band transponder-capacity on-board INSAT-2E will be leased to the International Telecommunication Satellite (INTELSAT) Organisation on commercial basis.
- Launch of IRS-P4 by PSLV during 1998-1999. This satellite will carry remote sensing payloads for ocean resources survey.
- First developmental test of GSLV during 1998-1999 with an experimental satellite, GSAT, on board. GSLV is envisaged to provide India the capability to launch INSAT class of communication satellites into geostationary transfer orbit.

[English]

Works under MPLADS

3463. SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether works under MPLADS are being unusually delayed in execution by the Government agencies and also unnecessary deductions are being made from the approved and sanctioned amounts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the works done in major cases under MPLADS are below standard;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (e) Some cases of slow implementation and low quality of MPLADS works have been reported. Whenever, such a complaint is received the matter is referred to the concerned authorities of the State Government for taking prompt corrective/remedial actions.