

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the reorientation of Doordarshan is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). No Sir. Doordarshan's services on INSAT series of satellites, including INSAT-2C, could not be reoriented due to election code of conduct declared by Election Commission to maintain the status-quo. Reorientation will be taken up shortly.

[Translation]

#### Optical Fibre Cable Lines in Rajasthan

948. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for laying optical fibre cable lines from Prasad to Saraada, Salambar, Dharivad, Pratapgarh and Tidi to Jaaver Mines in District Udaipur, Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Government propose to link the optical fibre cable line laid between Udaipur and Dungarpur in Rajasthan with the village falling within the radius of 10 Kms;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these proposals are likely to be implemented;

(d) whether the Government also propose to replace the overlines with underground lines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir. Wherever technically possible.

(c) The statement is attached.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The replacement of overhead lines with underground cables is for local Network. for long distance network open wire systems are progressively being replaced by reliable media such as Microwave and optical fibre cables.

#### STATEMENT

Details of villages falling within a radius of 10 kms. where optical fibre cable is to be laid between Udaipur and Dungarpur in Rajasthan :-

Name of the Station	Proposed Media & time by which schemes to be implemented
1	2
1. Prasad	Optical Fibre Cable scheme in 1997-98.
2. Chawand	-do-

1	2
3. Sarada	Covered by scheme as at S/No. 2
4. Salambar	Optical Fibre cable scheme in 1997-98.
5. Dharivad	-do-
6. Pratapgarh	Microwave system and the optical fibre cable scheme between Sarada-Chawand-Salambar-Dharivad may be extended upto Pratapgarh also.
7. Tidi	Optical Fibre Cable system in 1997-98.
8. Zawar Mines	-do-

[English]

#### Central Waqf Act, 1995

949. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal from the Minorities Protection and Welfare Organisation of Shia Community to stop implementation of the Central Waqf Act, 1995 in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Union Government have any plan to amend the Central Waqf Act, 1995, in Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No Sir. However, a writ petition has been filed by one Shri Rizwanul Haq in the Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court Challenging the Constitutional validity of the Waqf Act, 1995 and its applicability in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The said Writ Petition No. 1689 of 1996 - Rizwanul Haq Vs Union of India and others, came up for hearing on 13.6.96. The Hon'ble Court has issued notice to the Attorney General of India and to the Advocate General of U.P. for presenting their point of view in the matter. The hon'ble Court has also directed that the Sunni and Shia Wakf Boards and Tribunal constituted under the Uttar Pradesh Muslim Wakf Act, 1960 should continue to function. Thus, the matter is sub-judice.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

#### Country Home Page Service in India

950. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are likely to go for 8