

1420 hours

**The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twenty minutes**

*past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(Shrimati Margaret Alva *in the Chair*)

**Title:** Regarding launching of INSAT-3B satellite.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): I am pleased to inform the hon. Members of the House that the Indian-built INSAT-3B satellite was successfully launched on March 22, 2000 from Kourou, French Guyana, by an Ariane-5 launch vehicle. Soon after, the Master Control Facility at Hassan took charge of the satellite operations and in three successive steps, using the satellite onboard propulsion system, the satellite was placed in geostationary orbit at 36,000 km. After completing the deployments of solar panels and antenna reflectors, the in-orbit testing of the communications payload has been successfully completed. The satellite is now ready for commencing its operations.

INSAT-3B is the first of the third generation INSAT series with four more satellites to follow. INSAT-3B is collocated with INSAT-2E at 83 degree east longitude. It carries 12 extended C-band transponders, three KU-band transponders and S-band mobile satellite service payloads. The satellite primarily caters to business communications, mobile communications and development communications. It provides the first set of transponders for Swarna Jayanthi Vidya Vikas Antariksh Upagraha Yojana (Vidya Vahini) for interactive training and development communication giving fillip to the Training and Developmental Communications programme using INSAT system.

Today, the INSAT system is one of the largest domestic multipurpose satellite systems in the world, with more than 85 communications transponders and payloads for meteorological applications. It provides a variety of services in the area of telecommunications, TV broadcasting, developmental communication, education, rural development, weather prediction and disaster warning. In this perspective, INSAT-3B represents the nation's resolve to use Space capabilities for a wide range of its developmental needs.

It is heartening to note that this complex mission was carried out in a professional and efficient manner from the INSAT Master Control Facility at Hassan, supplemented in the early phase by the ground stations in Canada, Australia and Italy. The INSAT system is a joint venture of the Department of Space, the Department of Telecommunications, the India Meteorological Department, All India Radio and Doordarshan.

I would like the House to join me in complimenting the Indian Space Research Organisation of the Department of Space and all other agencies involved in this programme for the success of this mission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think it is a great achievement and the House would certainly like to convey our appreciation of the achievements to our scientists and to all those who were involved.

-----