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14.05 hrs.

Title: Regarding launch of INSAT-3A Sattellite.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, INSAT-3A satellite, India's state-of-the-art multi-mission, multi-purpose satellite for providing telecommunications, television, meteorological and search and rescue services was launched today at 04:22 IST by Ariane-5 vehicle of Europe from Kourou in French Guyana. It was separated from the launch vehicle at 04:52 IST and the signals were acquired at the INSAT Master Control Facility at Hassan, Karnataka. The satellite is currently in the Geo-Synchronous Transfer Orbit of 36,055 kilometres by 859 kilometres with an inclination of 1.99 degrees with respect to the equator. The satellite is now under the control of INSAT-MCF. Initial health checks from INSAT-MCF indicate that all the subsystems of the satellite are performing nominally.

The orbit of the satellite will be gradually raised to the Geo-Synchronous Orbit (GSO) through a series of manoeuvres from INSAT-MCF over the next few days. After the satellite reaches the GSO, the solar array deployment, antenna deployment and the sail deployment will be performed. This will be followed by the checkout of the payload after which the satellite will be declared ready for operations.

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

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area of telecommunications, TV broadcasting, developmental communication, education, telemedicine, rural development, weather prediction and disaster warning. In this perspective, INSAT-3A represents the nation's resolve to use Space capabilities for a wide range of its developmental needs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like the House to join me in wishing the ISRO team all the best in the complex mission that is to be carried out in the next few days from the INSAT Master Control Facility at Hassan.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): Congratulations!

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Well done!

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Sir, I congratulate the Minister also. He is a very good friend of mine.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : He could have been given a Cabinet berth. Deprivation of Bengal is continuing. Such a great man can easily be elevated to the Cabinet. We are unitedly recommending it. Such a great a man should have been in the Cabinet.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I also support that view, from the North-East.

MR. SPEAKER: I appreciate your generosity.
