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Title : Need to review allocation of slots for programmes being telecast by Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata with view to maximizing revenue earnings by the Kendra.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): I would like to bring to the notice of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting that almost all the time slots for sponsored programmes of Kolkata Doordarshan are lying vacant for years together resulting in huge loss of revenue, whereas number of producers are waiting for allotment of time slots for their programmes duly approved by the Kendra with higher revenue long time back Kolkata Doordarshan in allotting time slots to new programmes at much lower price avoiding the bidding process. The slots that fetches Rs. 60,000.00 or more are now being allotted at Rs. 15,000.00 to the chosen few. Even highest revenue earning slots are allotted to selective people at as low as Rs. 10,000.00. This will further increase the loss of revenue. No positive action has been taken against any of the defaulters. No legal action has been initiated to realize payments from default producers. This is another area is loss of revenue.

No positive action has been taken to improve the quality of the programmes and as such private satellite channels are gaining advantage both due to quality and dearth of programmes at Doordharshan.

I request the Government to intervene and check the loss of revenue due to vacant slots, default-producers, allotment of slots at cheaper rates to selected few so that Kolkata Doordarshan can once again get back the glory of the highest revenue earning Kendra amongst all the Kendras of Doordarshan. I demand immediate action to make the Kendra profit making besides punishing the guilty.