

12.00 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER
INSAT-2B SATELLITE

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : I am delighted to inform the Honourable Members of the House that the second indigenously built second generation multipurpose geostationary satellite, INSAT-2B has been successfully placed in its orbital position and all the payloads have been switched on. The spacecraft has been declared fully operational.

The 1932 Kg. satellite was successfully launched by the Ariane launch vehicle on July 23, 1993 and was injected in to geostationary transfer orbit. Immediately following the launch several critical manoeuvres were carried out using the systems on board the satellite, by the INSAT Master Control Facility at Hassan in Karnataka. The satellite was first placed in a near geosynchronous orbit, nearly 36,000 KM above the earth, by firing the liquid apogee motor in three stages. Then the Spacecraft was allowed to move slowly towards its final orbital position at 93.5 Degree East longitude and all the deployments were carried out. INSAT-2B achieved its full in-orbit configuration on schedule, due to the excellent performance of all the systems on-board.

INSAT-2B carries 18-band transponders including six in extended C-band, 2 high power S-band transponders, a Very High Resolution Radiometer for meteorological imaging, a Data Relay Transponder and a Search and Rescue payload. A series of extensive checks and characterisation of all the payloads have been carried out and the Spacecraft will be put into regular operational use from August 15, 1993.

INSAT-2B will add capacity to the INSAT system for more long distance telecommunications circuits, business networks, remote area communication, teleconferencing, national and regional TV networks, Satellite TV channels, messaging and data networks. The Search and Rescue Payload which is a new feature added to the INSAT-2

system will instantaneously detect distress alerts over a vast region around India for taking appropriate rescue measures.

INSAT-2B, like INSAT-2A is a complex and state-of-the-art spacecraft, and has been entirely designed and built in India with minimal imported parts and components. I am sure that Members of the House would join me in conveying our deep appreciation and heartiest congratulations to all the Scientists, Engineers, Technicians and other support staff of the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Department of Space for the great success that they have achieved in making available INSAT-2B for national services. The country can be justifiably proud of this magnificent achievement.

12.04 hrs.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : We also join the Prime Minister in congratulating our scientists. *(Interruptions)*.

MR. SPEAKER : Let us do it one by one. I will allow you. But I will first allow Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan because I have promised him yesterday.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN (Vidisha) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak.

Sir, millions of people are facing threat to their lives in Vidisha district. The Betwa river is the lifeline of Vidisha and Raisen districts. Alongwith Vidisha, Basauda, Purwai and Mandi Bamaura, millions of people of several other cities and villages are dependent on the river Betwa for drinking water. But Mr. Speaker Sir, from Mandideep to Vidisha, several industrial units and factories have been set up along the river Betwa which pollute it. On 9th March, I had asked in this House whether the Betwa was being polluted by industries factories, the reply was in affirmative. The names of industrial units which pollute Betwa were also given and an assurance was given that action against these units would be taken, but nothing has been done. On the Sixth

August, the river Betwa was polluted by discharging effluents by an industrial unit Som Distillery. Its water become poisonous and millions of fish and other animals died due to it. A number of persons and cattle had fallen sick and they are still suffering. The supply of water to entire Vidisha district from Betwa river has been stopped. But no action has been taken against this industrial unit. It is very sad that the Minister of Environment went to Bhopal but he could not go to Betwa which is just 25 kilometers from there to see for himself. The Government and the Pollution Control Board could not identify the industrial unit which pollutes Betwa. I would like to say that stern action should be taken against the industrial unit as also against the officials of the Pollution Control Board responsible therefor. I urge upon the Government to implement the scheme immediately, for making the Betwa pollution free.

12.07 hrs.

**RE : RESERVATION IN PROMOTIONS
FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roser) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very important issue. I have already given a notice in this regard. I am happy that Kesariji is present here and he had given an assurance in this regard. I am raising the issue regarding the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotions. After the Supreme Court's judgement of 16th November, this issue has been raised for several times in the House. Hon. Members of all the political parties have demanded that the issue of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotions should not be affected by the judgement of the Supreme Court. The judgement of the Supreme Court is a matter between the Government and the law department, but it should not affect the provision of reservation for SCs/STs in promotions

The hon. Minister had given the first statement on this issue on December 22 and I have the proceedings of the House of May 10 of the last session with me. This House had discussed the issue for one long hour in which the leaders of all the political parties had participated. In the end hon. Shri Kesari stated that he had issued the orders and this provision of reservation in promotions would not be affected. I have cited an example that Syndicate Bank has advertised 1600 vacancies and reservation for SCs/STs in promotion was abolished by saying that :

[English]

"The Government of India has since examined the matter and clarified that the Syndicate Bank is not required to provide reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotion."

[Translation]

They denied the reservation in promotion in the case of these 1600 posts on the basis of this judgement. Earlier it was stated :

[English]

"In consonance with the hon. Supreme Court's judgement, the bank provided reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotion, communicated vide such and such date. But the Government of India has since examined the matter and clarified that the Syndicate Bank is not required to provide reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in promotion."

[Translation]

The hon. Minister has stated that Constitution will also be amended, if needed. We have been demanding time and again that if you want to make amendment in the Constitution, you should do it without any discussion and keep the interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes intact otherwise the agitation being launched by the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes Association in the South