

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