

my large constituency besides boosting other industries in the area. Railway facility should be improved in my areas. Our society discriminates between son and daughter because son earns for the family. Prior to me while referring to Family Planning one of my colleagues, Shri Digvijay Singh Jhala suggested and I am repeating it that saving certificates worth Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 should be gifted to the parents having one or two daughters so that they do not go in for the third child - in the hope of a son and are able to sustain their life in old age. I also suggest that the Government should do something for those parents who go in for family planning after having one daughter.

15.30-hrs

STATEMENT RE. LAUNCH OF
INDIAN REMOTE SENSING
SATELLITE-IA, (IRS-1A)

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): India's first indigenous Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS)-1A has today been successfully launched from Baikanour Cosmodrome in the Soviet Union. The spacecraft is functioning normally. It is revolving around the earth in a polar orbit once every 103.2 minutes.

After separation from the VOSTOK launcher, the automatic deployment of the satellite's solar panels has been successfully accomplished. They are maintaining the temperature within the stipulated limits.

The satellite is being controlled from the main Spacecraft Control Centre at Bangalore. ISRO ground stations at Lucknow and Mauritius are also being used in this mission. In addition, at the initial stages of the mission, ground stations of foreign space agencies located in Kenya, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany are assisting in monitoring the progress of the satellite.

All systems and subsystems of the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite have been designed and fabricated indigenously. IRS-1A weighs 975 kg. and carries two sets of state-of-the-art cameras. One camera will provide imageries with a resolution of 72 metres over a longitudinal strip of 148 km as the spacecraft sweeps over India. The second camera will provide imageries with a resolution of 36 metres over the same area. The spacecraft orbit will be continuously adjusted to ensure that all imageries are taken every day, around 10.25 a.m.

The successful launching of IRS-1A is a major milestone in our remote sensing programme. India now becomes the fifth nation in the world - after USA, USSR, France and Japan - to have accomplished the remote sensing of the earth's resources from Space.

I am sure the House would wish to join me in extending our heartiest congratulations to the team of scientists, engineers and supporting staff of the Department of Space whose dedicated efforts over the last 5 years have brought this great success to the nation.

15.34 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET, 1988-89 — GENERAL
DISCUSSION —Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the democracy flourishes and makes progress and the Government glows with happiness when the farmers are prosperous.

MR. SPEAKER: Today, you have left even Shri Balkavi Bairagi far behind in speech making.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN: At the outset, I think it is my duty to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi for having kept his word and fulfilling the promise made to the people in this Budget. Even the poorest of the poor is happy with this Budget. Besides, our Finance Minister