

Setting up a Doordarshan Relay Centre at Deosar, Madhya Pradesh

5770. SHRI JAGANNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan relay centres are functioning at Sidhi and Singarauli in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the people living in the remote area of the district are not covered by these relay centres due to short range of their transmission; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to set up a Doordarshan relay centre at Deosar in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS (SHRIP. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). Two low per (100 W) TV transmitters, one each at Sidhi ad Singarauli and a trans-pose at Singarauli are, at present, function-ing in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh pro-viding TV service to about 24% population of the district inclusive of the fringe areas where satisfactory reception can be obtained by the use of multi-element elevated antennae and/or tall boosters. Further extension of TV service to the uncovered parts of the district would depend upon the availability of ade-quate resources for this purpose in the future plans of TV expansion.

Opium Production

5771. SHRI MITRA SEN YADAV:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PAN-
DEYA:
SHRI NANDLAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total opium production per hec-

tare in 1989-90 in various States with State-wise break-up and its total requirements in the country;

(b) the criteria laid down for production of opium in various States;

(c) whether foreign exchange is also earned through this item and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether best quality opium in the world is produced in India and, if so, the difficulty being faced by Government in in-creasing its production?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The figures of opium produced in the three poppy growing States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan for the year 1989-90 would only be known after completion of procure-ment of opium which is in progress. The opium produced during 1988-89 is, how-ever, as follows:—

<i>Name of State</i>	<i>1988-89 (Prov. Kgs. at 90% cons.)</i>
Madhya Pradesh	2286630
Rajasthan	164010
Uttar Pradesh	95425
Total	488065

(b) The criteria envisages grant of li-cences to those cultivators who had been tendering the prescribed minimum qualify-ing yield in the preceding years and had not violated any departmental instructions relat-ing to poppy cultivation. The grant of licence is also subject to the condition that the culti-vator did not at any time resort to illicit cultivation or was not concerned in any of-fence under the laws relating to narcotic drugs.

(c) The foreign exchange earned during the last 3 years is as follows:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total foreign exchange earned (Rs. in crore)</i>
1987-88	19.01
1988-89	14.65
1989-90	23.45 (Prov)

(d) India is the only producer of opium for export to meet its licit world requirements for medical purposes. It is cultivated in the traditional poppy growing areas in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Indian opium has been facing stiff competition in the international market from the concentrate of poppy straw, an alternate raw material, which has affected our exports and resulted in accumulation of huge stocks. Therefore, the Government have been constrained to reduce the area under poppy cultivation over the years.

[*English*]

News-Item Entitled "Big Haul of Foreign Currencies"

5772. SHRI D. AMAT:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PURO-
HIT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Big haul of foreign currencies" appearing in the "Indian Express" dated 22 March, 1990; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF.

MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consequent upon searches conducted by the Officers of the Directorate of Enforcement on 20.3.90 at the premises of Shri Praduman Kumar Jain, Delhi, foreign currencies of the value of Rs. 3.65 lakhs and Indian currency amounting to Rs. 3.88 lakhs besides documents were seized. During the course of the search, three persons who visited his business premises were also searched and foreign currencies amounting to Rs. 20,000/- in addition to Indian currency of Rs. 19,260 and some documents were seized from their persons. Shri Praduman Kumar Jain along with Shri Sanjay Kumar Jain, one of the persons who had visited his business premises, were arrested on 21.3.90 and produced before the court who remanded them to judicial custody. Action as warranted under the law has been initiated against the concerned parties.

[*Translation*]

Export of Marble

5773. SHRI GULABCHAND KATARIA:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Udaipur (Rajasthan) has acquired important place in the field of marble production;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to export marble from this area; and

(c) the number of exporters who have been given export facilities by Government and the number of additional applications under the consideration of Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Surface deposits of various types of marble are available in