

upon the inter-se priority for extension of TV service in uncovered parts of the country.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of T.V. Relay Centres at Bharonch and Kewadia Colony in Gujarat

8313. SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased state:

(a) whether television relay centres have been set up at Bharonch and Kewadia Colony in Gujarat;

(b) whether the entire Bharonch district has not been benefited from this centre due to its low capacity; and

(c) if so, the steps propose to be taken by Government to increase the capacity of this centre?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). Whereas three low power (100 W) TV transmitters are functioning at present, one each at Bharuch, Kewadia Colony and Dediapada, in Bharuch District, the high power (10 KW) TV transmitter at Ahemabad also provides service to some parts of this district. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to provide TV service to the remaining uncovered parts of the district as expeditiously as possible, depending upon the availability of funds for this purpose.

[*English*]

T.V. Serial "Sword of Tipu Sultan"

8314. PROF. K.V. THOMAS:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased state:

(a) the recommendations of K.R. Malkani on the Television Serial "Sword of Tipu Sultan";

(b) whether these recommendations have been accepted by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the serial would be telecast by Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (d). The requisite information is given below in the statement.

STATEMENT

Shri K.R. Malkani has been of the view that there is nothing objectionable either in the historical novel "The Sword of Tipu Sultan" on which the serial is based or in the eight episodes made available to him for preview. He has, in fact, felt that the way the life of Tipu Sultan has been depicted—for example, young Tipu attributing his marksmanship to the practice of Yoga—it can only promote national integration. He has, however, suggested the following modifications:

- Each episode of the serial be appropriately prefaced to indicate that the serial is based on the novel "The Sword of Tipu

Sultan" and not on history as much and that it highlights Tipu's heroic fight against the British and does not deal with his controversial role in Coorg and Kerala;

- All the derogatory references to Samundiri ((Zamorin), the then ruler of Calicut, contained in the book should be kept out of the serial: and
- The shapeless map of India which serves as the introduction to each episode should either be made accurate or edited out.

All these modifications have been accepted by the Government. The serial is tentatively scheduled to be telecast shortly subject to final re-preview.

Setting up of New T.V. Relay Centres in Kerala

8315. SHRIRAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to start new T.V. relay centres in Kerala in the current financial year;
- (b) if so, the names of those centres: and
- (c) whether there is any proposal for setting up of a relay centre in Kottayam district, Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). Replacement of the low power (100 W) TV transmitter functioning at Calicut by a high power (10 KW) TV transmitter is under implementation in Ker-

ala, as a spill-over scheme of the Seventh Plan. This project is, however, expected to be completed during 1992-93. Besides, Doordarshan's Annual Plan for 1990-91 also includes the establishment of a number of additional TV transmitters, the locations of which depends upon inter-se priority for extension of TV service in uncovered parts of the country.

(c) Besides the low power TV transmitter functioning at Chenganacherry, parts of Kottayam district of Kerala receive TV service from the high power TV transmitter at Cochin. It is the endeavour of Government to further improve TV service in the district subject to future availability of resource for this purpose.

Programmes in Doordarshan Kendra of Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh

8316. SHRI BASAVAPUNNAIAH SINGAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased state:

- (a) whether Government are aware of the frequent failures and poor standards of programmes in Doordarshan Kendra of Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps being taken to improve the performance of Doordarshan Kendra, Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). It has always been the endeavour of Doordarshan, including Doordarshan Kendra, Hyderabad, to produce and telecast good quality programmes. As per the Audience Research of the Kendra, 60% of the viewing population have appreciated the programmes telecast by the