

Increasing of relay power of Trivandrum T. V. Centre

1439. SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Malayalam programme which is relayed from Trivandrum Doordarshan is not available to all the places of Pathanam Thitta district of Kerala even after raising its relay power; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is, however, no proposal at present to link the low power (100 W) TV transmitter operating at Pathanamthitta with the Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum, for relay of these programmes.

Export of Diamonds

1440. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of diamonds exported during the Seventh Plan period;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the export of diamonds during the Eighth Plan period; and

(c) if so, the target fixed and the steps taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) As per provisional estimates exports of cut and polished diamonds during the Seventh Plan Period were Rs. 14,954 crores.

(b) and (c) Export planning in the sector would have to proceed from year to year having regard to market conditions, prices and availability of dia-

monds. The export earnings are, however, expected to increase consistent with India's position as the prime exporter of cut and polished diamonds.

In order to improve diamond exports the Government has already taken a series of measures including placement of tools, equipment and accessories of manufacture on Open General Licence for imports at concessional duty, improvement in bank credit facilities, exemption of profits earned from exports under Section 80 HHC of the Income Tax Act and notification of appropriate rates of import replenishment against exports. The Government also maintains a close watch on the progress of exports with a view to provide adequate input support, whenever necessary.

Modernisation of Durgapur Steel Plant by Birla Technical services

1441. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of in-house capabilities, the Birla Technical Services had for providing engineering design of equipments at the time of submission of the bids for Durgapur Steel Plant modernisation;

(b) the details of in-house capability of Birla Technical Services now and to what extent the services of providing engineering design is being prepared by them through their employee and to what extent they are getting such designs from their sub-contractors; and

(c) the details of the mechanism which the Durgapur Steel Plant authorities have for checking such designs provided by Birla Technical Services?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) The engineering design of equipment is provided by the equipment manufacturers. At the time of submission of bids, Birla Technical