

**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

Services (BTS) had indicated that reputed sub-vendors like Siemens (I) Ltd., M/s. HEC. M/s. BHEL. M/s. MAMC, M/s. Jessops, and M/s. L & T etc., would provide the engineering designs for equipment. BTS themselves did not have capability in this field.

(b) The basic engineering, design and detailed engineering for civil and structural works is being carried out by BTS using their own employees. The engineering design of equipment is done by their sub-vendors of equipment.

(c) The design and engineering prepared by BTS are first checked and cleared by the respective consortium leaders. Upon submission, these are checked and commented upon by the Project Management Consultant, M/s. Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (MECON)/DSP and approval accorded, wherever necessary. In addition, MECON are frequently interacting with M/s. Birla Technical Services to ensure the progress and quality of design and engineering.

### **Import of Rubber**

1442. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the grade-wise quantity of rubber imported during the current financial year so far and further imports proposed to be made this year;

(b) the quantity of imported rubber released to industrialists this year so far, grade-wise;

(c) whether the release of SMR grade of imported rubber has seriously affected the crumb rubber units; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Out of 40,000 tonnes of natural rubber authorised so far for imports during the current financial year, 31,700 MT has already been

imported comprising of 25,700 MT of RSS 3 and 6,000 MT of SMR 20. The grade-wise break-up of the balance quantity cannot be furnished till actual imports have been made.

(b) So far 32,000 MT of natural rubber have been released out of which 27,469 MT are of RSS 3 grade and the balance being of SMR 20.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### **Rocket attack on Air Station of J & K**

1443. SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transmission station of All India Radio of J & K was recently subjected to rocket attack;

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused; and

(c) whether the station is operational?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) The High Power Transmitter of AIR at Narbal, Srinagar, came under rocket attack recently.

(b) The high tension room wall was partially damaged.

(c) Yes, Sir.

### **Coal Smuggling**

1444. SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal worth crores of rupees was being smuggled into Pakistan via Gujarat from nearly two hundred private godowns at the Ghughus colliery site under Western Coalfields Limited situated in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra;