

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS***[English]***Relay of Programmes from Bangalore Doordarshan**

\*69. SHRI R. GUNDU RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangalore Doordarshan is relaying its programme only for Bangalore city and a few kilometres around;

(b) whether there is a demand for relaying the programmes of Bangalore Station from all the Kendras of Doordarshan in Karnataka;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken for the improvement of quality and duration of the programmes relayed by Bangalore Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (d). Programmes telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore are received within a range of about 120 Kms. including the fringe areas where satisfactory reception is possible with the help of elevated receiving antennae, booster etc. Requests have been received, from time to time, from various quarters for relay of regional (Kannada) programme produced and telecast by Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore by all the TV transmitters in the State of Karnataka. It was in fact planned to introduce regional TV Service in the State, via Satellite, on operationalisation of INSAT IC using space segment in C-Band transponder. This did not materialise as the spacecraft soon after its launch developed a power

bus anomaly which rendered half its payload unfunctional. Subsequently, the remaining surviving payload also failed. In the present situation, therefore, the introduction of regional service depends upon the availability of adequate facility in the space segment.

It is the constant endeavour of Doordarshan to bring about improvement in quality and content of the programmes. The duration of programmes telecast by Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore has already been increased by 30 minutes with effect from 1st March, 1990. The Kendra has also been provided with colour OB Van for outside coverages and live telecasts. Provision of enhanced post production and transmission facilities at the Kendra would, however, depend on the availability of requisite resources under future plans.

**Gold Seizure at Madras Airport**

\*70. SHRI R.N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs officials at Madras Airport seized gold bars on 18th February, 1990, as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated 19th February, 1990;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the further action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Customs officers seized 32 gold bars totally weighing 3,569.5 grams valued at Rs. 13,02,867/- at Madras Airport on 18th February, 1990 from a passenger named I. Chani, who was intercepted at the exit gate of international arrival hall of Madras Airport.

(c) Two persons named I. Chani and S.P. Mangera were arrested and remanded to judicial custody.