

Expansion of T.V. Network in West Bengal

***294. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to expand the T.V. network in West Bengal during the Seventh Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) The VII Plan schemes of Doordarshan have not yet been finalised.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : I want to know from the hon. Minister what are the proposals which are under consideration for the expansion of TV network in West Bengal.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Please let us know Statewise figures.

[English]

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Sir, my problem is this. I do not know how much amount will be sanctioned in the Seventh Plan. On the supposition that a certain amount will be sanctioned, we propose to have about 64 low powered transmitters and about 10 high powered transmitters. On the basis of what we expect, we will get the money. If we get more, possibly it can be increased. But at this stage it will not be possible for me to say that we will have LPT at place X and HPT at place Y, because today I say it and subsequently no money is available, then it will be misleading the House. Therefore, I cannot say anything at this stage. But I would like to point out that West Bengal is probably the luckiest State which has the highest percentage of population covered by TV even today.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that some TV relay centres of West Bengal like Murshidabad, Behranpur, Asansol and Bolpur can only relay the programmes broadcast by the Delhi centre, but they cannot broadcast the programmes from the Calcutta centre itself. In this regard I want to know from the hon. Minister what steps he is going to take so that all the TV centres of West Bengal can relay the programmes from the Calcutta TV centre.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Sir, as I have stated on an earlier occasion in this House, programmes, say, from Calcutta to all over Bengal, or from Bangalore to all over Karnataka, or from Bombay to all over Maharashtra, like this, can be telecast only if we have one of the two alternatives, what is in technical language called additional transponder in the next satellite, or microwave link between those respective stations. What we are proposing is that in the Seventh Plan, in some States we should have microwave link and some States will be covered by the additional transponders. Now, whether we will be able to do it again depends upon how much will be available for the Telecommunication Ministry. If they are in a position to provide microwave links at places — for example, now there is a microwave link from Calcutta to Lucknow to Delhi, and from Bombay to Delhi. But in respect of other places, Madras-Kodaikanal is sanctioned, it is under installation. So, all this will depend on either or both alternatives that are available to us.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether a T.V. centre will even be set up at Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan?

MR. SPEAKER : Will a T.V. centre be ever set up at *Hars Ka pahar* or not ?(Interruptions.)

MR. SPEAKER : At least say, 'Yes, for assurance sake.

[English]

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : The answer

would be subject to availability of resources and availability equipment, "Yes".

National Urban Sanitation Funding Corporation

***295. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH :**
Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether at the Conference of State Ministers held in 1984, there was a proposal to set up a National Urban Sanitation Funding Corporation similar to HUDCO;

(b) whether his Ministry has set up such an agency; and

(c) if so, allocations proposed for it in the Seventh Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) :

(a) No separate financing institution for urban sanitation was recommended by the Conference of State Ministers in charge of Water Supply & Sanitation held in New Delhi on 20th July, 1984. The Conference, however, recommended the setting up of a financing organisation on the pattern of HUDCO for water supply and sanitation.

(b) and (c) No such agency has been set up so far. However, the question of setting up a financing institution for Urban infrastructure development, including water supply and sanitation services, is at a preliminary stage of examination. Hence provision for this purpose to be made in the VII Plan has not yet been firmed up.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Sir, unfortunately, the concerned hon. Minister is not present. May I now request the Works & Housing Minister once again to check up the fact with the bureaucracy because I am personally aware that on the 20th July, 1984, three proposals were made ; One was to have a separate Budget head for water supply and another separate Budget head for sanitation. It is because, at present the money is given for both supply and sanitation and all the money is absorbed and swept away on the supply side and no

money is left for the sanitation. So, you cannot have any sewerage programme. Therefore, a proposal was made and a decision was taken on the 20th July, meeting that a separate Budget head would be made for sanitation different from that of water supply.

Secondly, a proposal was also made for setting up of such a corporation, as I suggested. The reply came earlier that such a Corporation would be set up. Now, the reply here is that no such proposal is made.

Thirdly, a suggestion was made to give some subsidies to individual municipalities for funding their sewerage programmes for which, of course, the reply came that there is no fund available.

But for the other two things, commitments were made. I think, the reply is wishy-washy. They said, for water supply and sanitation, there was a proposal for setting up of a financing organisation. But it cannot be for both supply and sanitation. It has to be one or the other. So, if for sanitation, a corporation has to be created, why has no proposal been made to set up a corporation in the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, of course, the hon. Member has suggested to me to check up the position again with the bureaucracy. I have checked up this position this morning. He need not hesitate in putting questions to me because I am not new to the subject. Of course, it is by chance, I am answering this Question because Mr. Ghafoor is away. He can put any question and I will give all the possible information with me. I have dealt with this subject in the Ministry of Works & Housing as the Minister of Works & Housing.

I wish to tell him that this resolution which was passed by the Ministers' Conference is with me and it did say this. I have got the exact language of the resolution. But when the matter went to the Planning Commission, the Planning Commission said that the Ministry should have the corporation not