

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Video Cassettes of 'Ramayan'

*388. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a suggestion to ensure the availability of the video cassettes of the Doordarshan serial 'Ramayan' at subsidised rates to the general public in view of its popularity at home and abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to implement the suggestion ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) to (c). Suggestions to this effect have sometimes been received. However, since the serial is produced by a Private Producer, the rights for sale of its Cassettes vest with him and Government cannot act on these suggestions.

Open Cast Coal Mines under Ib Valley Coalfield, Orissa

*394. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of open cast coal mines that are under operation in the Ib Valley Coalfield in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to start the operation of some new open cast coal mines in that valley;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which mining operation is expected to be started on these open cast coal mines; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) Two opencast coal mines, Lajkura and Belpahar together produced about 0.87 million tonnes of coal in 1986-87. These mines which are under

development will together produce 3.0 mty of coal when completed.

(b) to (e). Leelari opencast project (0.80 mty) has been sanctioned recently. The following four projects are planned for coal production in the Eighth Plan period :

	Proposed capacity
(i) Samleshwari	3.00 mty
(ii) Lakhanpur (Belpahar III)	5.00 mty
(iii) Belpahar II	3.00 mty
(iv) Gopalpur	5.00 mty

Import Policy of Foreign Film

*395. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign films imported by Non-Resident Indians since the announcement of the NRI film import policy in 1984;

(b) the date from which changes made recently in the import policy will become effective;

(c) whether there are some applications, given by Non-Resident Indians prior to the date of announcement of the change in import policy, for import of foreign films which have been bought or for which advance payments have been made by them, still pending with Government; and

(d) if so, the number of pending applications and the manner in which Government propose to dispose them of ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) 176 foreign feature films have been imported by non-resident Indians under the Import Policy of October, 1984.

(b) The new policy for import of feature films and video rights of feature films announced vide Ministry of I and B's Public Notice No. 105/3/86-F(I) became effective from the date of its announcement i.e. 21.1.1988.