

given by the scientists and the environmentalists, and if not, will he assure me now that the documents that are with him, he will examine through an independent enquiry and give his own findings ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As far as Assam is concerned, if it is a case of experts who have opined that because of the removal of the super-structure surface its fertility or in any way ecological imbalance takes place by open cast mining, we will definitely look into it because we do not want in any way the environment to be adversely affected by any system of mining.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the open cast mining system increases the volume of production and minimises pollution. Fire has also broken out in the open cast mines of Khelasi-IIai North Karampura area of the district of Ranchi. The Jharia coalfields under B.C.C. is a thickly populated area and fire has broken out in mines under ground. Will the hon. Minister kindly enlighten us as to whether a scheme has been formulated to put off this fire so that this area which is densely populated can be saved. An explosion can occur at any time here causing immense damage to life and property. What steps is the hon. Minister going to take in this regard ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, fire breaks out in two ways. One is because of internal combustion *i.e.* when coal is heaped at one place after mining, it catches fire. Second is in areas where coal is deposited in the shallow seams like in Jharia—which has been just mentioned—where fire has been raging for quite a number of years. Here the coal deposits are in the shallow seams and have not been exploited so far. It catches fires when it comes in contact with oxygen from the air above. In order to extinguish the fire, the scientists have suggested that the entire deposit of coal should be recovered by opening the mine. Areas like Jharia can be saved only by open cast system. We are making such efforts but for doing so the whole population has to be evacuated from there. Their lives are in danger and this technology is being considered for saving their lives. I would like to get everyone's cooperation

in this regard and we are also making all out efforts.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will you make efforts after the entire area is destroyed by fire.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We will do before that happens. You create trouble at both ends. We have some friends like Shri Narayan Choubey who would agitate, if we evacuate the people of that area and if we do not evacuate them then they would agitate. Our endeavour would be to ensure that fire does not spread.

MR. SPEAKER : The person who are too clever would incite the thieves to steal and tell the owners to keep vigilant.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We expect to extinguish this fire and recover larger quantities of coal.

SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a new machine called the 'Dredge line' is being used in the open cast system. Its cost is about Rs. 20 to 30 crores, and Commission has also been paid in its purchase. Such Commissions are between 10 to 25 per cent. This machine can do the work of 1000 labourers and consequently, they are being rendered jobless. They are not able to get any work. In this connection, what steps are being taken for the welfare of those labourers ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, modern technology has to be used for ensuring higher volumes of production at lower costs. Machines like shovels, dumper, dredge lines etc. have to be utilised for this purpose. To urge that this industry should be labour intensive, would result in loss of production. Consequently, neither the cost of coal will be low nor will it be of a good quality and, therefore, we will have to give a thought to it.

[English]

Setting up of High Power TV Relay Centres

*818. **SHRI K. RAMCHANDRA REDDY :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided

to set up TV relay centres in all the district headquarters by 1990;

(b) whether Government propose to go in for high power transmitters such as 10 KW or above so that it may cover the whole population in every district;

(c) the amount needed therefor and the amount likely to be spent in 1988-89 in this regard;

(d) whether the work of increasing the power of TV relay centre at Anantapur to 10 KW has since commenced; and

(e) if so, when it is likely to be completed ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (e). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) All the district headquarters towns in the country are expected to be covered by TV service on completion of the various Seventh Plan schemes, either by a transmitter located there or by transmitter(s) functioning in the surrounding area(s).

(b) and (c). The existing policy of Doordarshan is to have a judicious mix of high power and low power TV transmitters in the country with a view to achieving optimum coverage. Taking into account the availability of resources, the Seventh Plan of Doordarshan, *inter alia*, provides for the establishment of high power TV transmitters (P KW, 10 KW and above) at selected places only. Doordarshan's Annual Plan for 1988-89 includes an amount of Rs. 2878.80 lakhs for the establishment of these transmitters.

(d) Site for the proposed high power (10 KW) TV transmitter at Anantapur has been taken over and estimate for civil works have been sanctioned. Orders for the transmitter and associated auxiliary equipment have also been placed on the manufacturers.

(e) The high power TV transmitter at Anantapur is expected to be commissioned into service towards the end of the Seventh Plan period.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Minister for taking steps for starting a 10 KW TV transmitter at Anantapur. At the same time, I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister that in part (e) he has said, high power transmitter at Anantapur is expected to be commissioned into service towards the end of the 7th Plan period. I would like the hon. Minister to expedite it in view of the feeling expressed by the people of Anantapur district and in view of the demand made for higher power transmission in 1985, to Unstarred Question No. 1621, dated 1.4.85 and Unstarred Question No. 2018, dated 2.12.1985 that there has been a consistent demand from the people of Anantapur district for TV coverage of the whole district. In view of the demand made three years back, will it be possible for the Government to complete the high power transmission at Anantapur by the end of this year and commission the same by the end of this year ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The installation of the transmitter depends on a large number of factors, the main factor being the availability of equipment funds and the delivery schedule. Therefore, we will not be able to give a very clear date but we are expediting all the high power transmitters which are to be installed during the remaining two years of the 7th Five Year Plan. Most certainly, the hon. Member's observations and request will also be taken into consideration.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : What is the amount that has been earmarked for setting up the transmitter at Anantapur. What is the amount that has been spent so far ? Will the Government not spend more amount and start the transmitter as early as possible ?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you concerned with the substance or with the source ?

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Both.

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : In answer to question in part (b) and (c), I have said, Doordarshan intends to spend Rs. 2878.80 lakhs for the establishment of

high power transmitters. So, Anantapur transmitter will be getting the *pro rata* allotment out of this.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : While Shri Ajit Panja was the Minister in-charge of the Department which is now being represented by our hon. Minister, Shri H.K.L. Bhagat, it was told that one transmitter would be set up in Midnapore. You know the history of Midnapore. Though Midnapore is not very far from Calcutta, we cannot get Calcutta programme. We do not see Calcutta's. We only see Delhi Doordashan. I would like to know from the Minister, what has happened to the setting up of transmitter set at Midnapore in West Bengal.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, during the remaining two years of the 7th Five Year Plan, 3 more low power transmitters will be set up in West Bengal and Midnapore is one of them, the other being Kalimpong and Alipurduar.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister had announced that T.V. transmitters will be installed in Adivasi areas on a priority basis. Whereas on the other hand it is stated that a transmitter will be set up in an area with not less than 1 lakh of population. In this connection, I want to know as to how many transmitters have been set up so far? One Department asks to increase population whereas the other Department wants that our population should be reduced. Will we have to increase our population to get the transmitters?

[*English*]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, the programme of hardware expansion of TV has been so formulated and planned that all the districts of the country—445 districts—will be covered by transmission on completion of the 7th Plan Schemes. Against this background, there is no need to specifically mention Adivasi area because Adivasi areas will be covered when all the districts are covered. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : No. I am not allowing.

Mr. Tewary will put the question.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : I would like to know from the hon. Minister about our request to have a low power TV transmitter at Buxar. Buxar has been the centre of our culture and civilisation over millennia and it is not covered either from Patna or Varanasi. It is in between. I have been writing and approaching almost all the Ministers. In fact, since the time Mr. Vasant Sathe was holding that portfolio, I have been writing and I have not received any positive reply so far. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any decision has been taken keeping in view the importance of Buxar as the centre of Bhojpuri speaking population and as a town which is very old and ancient.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : As I have already said Buxar will also be covered when at the Seventh Five Year Plan, all the districts of the country are covered. Of course, it is not part of the Plan that TV transmitters are put up in all the district headquarters of the country. Out of 445 districts in the country, local transmitters will be put up only in 298 district headquarters.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Our districts are large. One district in UP or Bihar, may be equal to five or six districts of other States.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : As regards the other 147 districts, coverage will be by transmission from neighbouring districts where high-power transmitters will be installed, I am not immediately able to say which high power transmitter will cover Buxar district but I will certainly look into the matter and see that Buxar district is also covered as part of the Plan.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is, not a fact for proper coverage of various areas by TV, apart from upgradation of the TV towers, it is also necessary to have TV towers with adequate height located at suitable places and, if is so, it not a fact that people in many areas of the West Coast Konkan region cannot see the television programmes properly for want of adequate

TV power as well as TV towers and, if so, will the hon. Minister give priority to this backward region of Konkan so that Konkan region which has remained already industrially backward, would not remain backward in terms of TV also ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I am grateful
to the hon. Member for raising this question
He has not merely put the question but he
has written to me about it also. I am
certainly looking into this matter.

This is not to say that where we have
TV transmitters, particularly high power
transmitters, there are no high towers. In
most of the places, high towers are there and
signals are available.

With regard to the Konkan region, I
am looking into the matter.

I can quite see and very well understand
and appreciate the anxiety of the hon.
Member. In fact, many of the areas are
having TV signals set there are some areas
which are not covered so far. That is why,
a very ambitious Plan is under operation.
At present, we have 251 TV transmitters of
various categories, some high power, some
low power, some very low power and some
transposers and they are working. When the
schemes under the Seventh Plan are com-
pleted, we shall have 421 transmitters of
various categories and this will cover 82.8%
population of the country and a number of
districts and towns etc., would be covered.
Besides this Seventh Plan scheme, I am
trying to expedite its completion. In fact,
one or two days later, a meeting of those
who are manufacturing public sector under-
taking transmitters, is being held so that it is
expedited. Apart from the Seventh Five Year
Plan, I am trying to explore the possibility of
finding some resources from my Ministry and
also the possibility of getting some more
transmitters in addition to the Seventh Five
Year Plan provision so that we can do better
coverage of the TV signals to the country.
But I can say and we can all of us say that
the whole nation can take it with a sense of
pride and satisfaction. Though our country
requires much better, much more TV but at
the rate and speed with which we have
developed this TV is the fastest in the world

and the world acknowledges this and this is
the largest TV population covered in a short
span of time.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Sir, the general
masses are not able to make use of TV.
Would the Government consider the advice
.....

MR. SPEAKER : I have gone to the
next question.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Would the
Government consider the advice... (*Interrup-
tions*) I am always sitting before you.
What is the wrong? Can you not see
me? I have been raising my hands so many
times. My supplementary is this : Whether
the Government are going to instal the
Public TV Stations ?

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Saheb, it is not
essential that always I should look at the
hands. I will not allow that question.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Sir, what is it
you are saying? I think you don't want
me to put the supplementary. I am sitting
before you all the time raising my hands.
How else could I draw your attention?
(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : I would request Prof.
Ranga to see that it is not always that hand
is seen and then it is done. Sometimes it is
ignored also.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. N.G. RANGA : There is some
mistake on your part. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT : Sir, I will go
myself to Prof. Ranga and explain the
position.

Cycles and Cycle Components

*820. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN
MOHANTY : Will the Minister of
INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether cycles and cycle parts are
manufactured in India for overseas cycle
manufacturers carrying brand names of fore-
ign manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;