

Earnings from 'Mahabharat'

3044. SHRI GHUMAN MAL LODHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state.

(a) the total earnings to Doordarshan from the serial "Mahabharat" till February, 1990; and

(b) how does it compare with the earnings from other serials like 'Hum Log', 'Khandan', 'Ramayana', etc.?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Doordarshan's gross earning from sponsorship fee for telecast of the serial 'Mahabharat' till February, 1990 was Rs. 1.85 crores.

(b) It is not appropriate to compare the earning from telecast of 'Mahabharat' with those from serials like 'Hum Log', 'Khandan' and 'Ramayana' as the sponsorship fee charged for the serials are different depending on variables such as the duration of each episode and the time categorisation of the programme.

Monthly Income Scheme of UTI

3045 SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India propose to launch a new series of monthly income scheme shortly;

(b) if so, the salient features of the new scheme and how it differs from the earlier schemes;

(c) whether the investors will be entitled for rebate/exemption from income tax under the new scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the Scheme would be as under:—

An option of—

(i) 13 dividends of 1% per month for 12 months.

or

(ii) Rs. 1000/- becomes Rs. 2500/- within a period of 7 years.

(iii) The investor is given a repurchase option at par for the lock-in period of 3 years.

(c) and (c). No rebate is allowed under this Scheme. However, the investor will get normal tax benefits under Section 80L of the Income Tax Act.

Export of Iron Ore to Romania

3046. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Romania is the largest European buyer of Indian iron ore;

(b) the quantity of iron ore contracted for and the actual quantity imported by Romania during 1988-89 and 1989-90 and the reasons for short fall, if any;

(c) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) has offered Indian vessels for carrying iron ore to Romania; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?