

ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government of India is evaluating the Super-Computers from USA & Japan. A final decision regarding the type and configuration of the Super Computer will be taken as soon as this evaluation is completed.

Writing of CRs by Government Servants

750. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to authorise any class or classes of Government servants to write their own Confidential Reports ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. In the Confidential Report formats for the IAS introduced from 1983-86, provision has been made for the officer reported upon, upto the level of Super Time Scale, to indicate their achievements and contributions during the year. This is a kind of self appraisal and is in consonance with the principle of Management by objectives. The reporting officer is required to comment upon these aspects.

The cadre controlling authorities of all the Group 'A' Central Services have been advised to revise the CR formats of their officers on the model of the CR formats revised for the IAS.

Impact of Setback in US Space Programme on India's INSAT-IC Programme

751. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the nature and extent of impact of recent setback suffered in the US Space Programme on India's INSAT-IC programme ;

(b) the effect on our various plans and programmes in the field of communications, education, etc. designed to spread intensive "awareness" campaigns ; and

(c) whether Government are keeping in view any alternatives in the event of such setbacks in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Prior to the "Challenger" accident of 28th January 1986, the INSAT-IC was scheduled to be launched by Challenger in end-September 1986. Following the accident, the Space Shuttle (STS) flights are presently suspended and are not expected to resume earlier than first quarter of 1988. As such, a STS launch opportunity for INSAT-IC is not expected to be available atleast until end-1988/early 1989. A Delta 3920 (expendable launcher) Launch opportunity for INSAT-IC is also not available at least until sometime in the second-half of 1988.

(b) In terms of the availability of on board propellants for attitude maintenance and station-keeping, the INSAT-IB satellite is expected to have a useful life through end-1989 plus and minus six months. As long as INSAT-IB satellite continues to operate satisfactorily, the impact on INSAT services from the delay in operationalisation of INSAT-IC will be basically limited to the growth in the long-distance telecommunications service and some of the regional TV feeds that were planned using INSAT-IC, the "active, spare satellite". To minimise the impact, action has been taken to procure an alternative launch service for launching INSAT-IC at the earliest, which is presently expected to be first quarter of 1988. Efforts will continue to advance the launching to second-half of 1987.

(c) The present situation in which a number of different launchers have suffered failures within a six month period is very unusual. The real solution lies in achieving self-reliance. The second-generation INSAT (INSAT-II) satellites