

MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) A statement is given below.

(b) No, Sir.

STATEMENT

A number of schemes are being implemented for the welfare of weaker sections of the society including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes living in urban as well as rural areas of Bihar. The schemes are under various sectors, such as Agriculture, Industry, Education, Housing and Health. Some of these schemes are as follows:-

- (1) Post Metric Scholarship for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;
- (2) Pre-matric Scholarships for the children of those engaged in the unclean occupations (Classes VI to X only);
- (3) Book Banks for SC and ST students in Medical and Engineering Colleges;
- (4) Girls Hostel Buildings for SCs and STs;
- (5) Coaching and Allied Scheme (SCs and STs);
- (6) Aid to Voluntary Organisations (SCs & STs);
- (7) Implementation of the PCR Act;
- (8) Liberation of scavengers;
- (9) Economic Support to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under poverty alleviation and other programmes;
- (10) Housing schemes for the economically weaker sections of society; and

(11) Scheme for environmental improvement of urban slums which envisages provision of basic amenities like drinking water, sanitation, widening and paving of existing lanes and pathways, community baths and latrines, street-lighting and storm water drains.

2. The scheme of Liberation of Scavengers (by way of conversion of dry latrines into water-borne ones) and their rehabilitation has been taken up in 16 towns of Bihar since 1980-81, but Patna is not amongst them.

TV Decoders imports by ET&T

5962. CH. KHURSHID AHMED:
SHRI HET RAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of TV Decoders imported by Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation from a French company;

(b) whether any competitive global offers were invited before finalising the deal with the French company, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any ET&T team visited France to finalise the deal; if so, with how many manufacturers efforts were made for negotiations before finalising the deal;

(d) whether the TV Decoders Deal was struck with any of the manufacturers or these were procured from a trader only; and

(e) the nature of the warranty, if any, taken from the supplier and the reasons for buying the Decoders from a trader?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOL-

OGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) 10,500 numbers of TV Decoders were imported.

(b) to (e). Based on a study conducted by Government, the French system 'Antiope' had been adopted for the introduction of Teletext services by Doordarshan. M/s Sofratey France, a French Government undertaking was an umbrella organisation on the French side associated with the installation of the system in India. It was considered appropriate to import the Decoders through them to ensure that the Decoders so procured are fully compatible with the selected system.

An officer of ET&T visited France only to finalise the shipment details etc. regarding the import just before placement of the formal order.

A warranty for a period of 12 months from the date of purchase by ET&T covering faults in material, workmanship and function was taken from the supplier.

Import of T.V. Decoders

5963. SHRI HET RAM:
SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI
KHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total cost involved in the purchase of the TV Decoders imported from France by Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Limited;

(b) whether the number of the TV Decoders was raised to ten thousand from the initial proposal of the Ministry of Informa-

tion and Broadcasting to import only one thousand decoders;

(c) if so, the fact thereof;

(d) the number of the Decoders that have been sold out so far and the value of the remaining decoders; and

(e) the total loss suffered on this account and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) The total cost of purchase of TV Decoders was Rs. 2.66 crores.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. Ministry of Information & Broadcasting had initially indicated the requirement to import 15,000 Decoders which was reduced to 10,500 only

(d) The number of TV Decoders sold so far is about 300 and the value of the remaining 10,200 decoders is approximately Rs. 2.58 crores.

(e) Steps are continuously being taken to improve the Teletext services with a view to make it more popular. Simultaneously, developmental and marketing efforts are being made to enhance acceptability to various users viz. hotels, Airlines, Travel Agents, banks, Share and Stock Brokers etc. With the above, it is expected that the sale of these Decoders at present lying with ET&T would pick up and hence, no loss has been suffered on this account.

Foreign Collaboration by WIPRO Information Technology Ltd.

5964. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: