

(iii) A 10 KW experimental solar power plant has been successfully installed and commissioned by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in cooperation with the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras under the Indo-FRG Cooperation Agreement.

(iv) Solar Energy heating systems for domestic use and for medium and large scale applications in hotels, guest houses, hostels etc. have also been developed in the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and the National Physical Laboratory. One such large scale installation has been completed at the Qutab Hotel, New Delhi.

(v) Know how has been developed for making personnel condensers for Solar cells at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

(vi) R & D work for fabrication of silicon solar cells at the Central Electronics Limited for direct conversion of solar energy into electricity by photovoltaic process is in progress. A number of other institutions in the country are participating in this work. The main thrust of R&D work in this area is to develop low cost solar photovoltaic cells with reasonable efficiency.

(vii) A solar energised desalination pilot plant of 1000 litres per day capacity for obtaining potable water from sea water was developed by the Central Salt & Marine Chemical Research Institute, Bhavnagar. Based on the performance of this pilot plant, the Institute has recently commissioned a 5000 litres per day capacity plant at village Awania in Gujarat and plants of larger capacities are under construction in Rajasthan.

Thai Language Programme by A.I.R.

1455. SHRI DILIP CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred

Question No. 336 on the 22nd February 1978 and state:

(a) the steps taken so far to start the broadcast in Thai language by A.I.R.; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b). It has already been decided to resume the Thai Service of the External Services Division of All India Radio. Steps are being taken to appoint the required staff. As soon as they are in position, the service will be resumed.

Programmes Telecast by T.V. Centre, Srinagar

1456. SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the T.V. coverage in Srinagar is confined only to Government functions; and

(b) time allotted during 1977-78 to functions organized by the Opposition parties?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no pre-arranged allocation of time as such to the ruling and opposition parties. The principal criterion is the newsworthiness of a particular event.

Inland Water Transport

1457. SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK:

SHRIMATI AHILYA P. RANGNEKAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Inland Water Transport is the cheapest mode of transport and continues to play a