

sentiments expressed in the House by other hon. Members. When all sections have expressed their views, the Janata Dal would also like to put its point of view on the issue, otherwise it will be quite embarrassing for my party. I fully share the views just now expressed by Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the House. Since, both the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs are present in the House at this moment and if any issue is persistently raised in the House, then it must be considered seriously. As my colleagues made it clear, all this does not present a good image outside the House. I think the matter should be ended here itself. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Prime Minister, present in the House, and also submit that he must assure both the sides and sort out the issue through discussion by convening a meeting of the concerned Chief Ministers. If the matter is continuously raised in the House then neither it will be in accordance with the decorum of the House nor will it make a good impact outside the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to thank the hon. Members for putting the things in a very restraint and trying to put in a correct perspective. I think after the statement made by the hon. Home Minister, it should not be necessary for us to prolong it. Let us go on with the regular business and I am sure that the Government and the hon. Prime Minister who is here are very much seized of the matter. The hon. Home Minister is here and all Members have expressed their views. We need not worry about that. They would certainly take all necessary steps to see that nothing untoward happens and justice is done to everybody. I hope that you will kindly cooperate with me.

We will proceed with the Question Hour.

11.32hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Plans to cover South Asia and China by Network

*345. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI DHARMANNA MON-
DAYA SADUL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated plans of covering the entire South Asia and China by uplinking the present Doordarshan network;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated amount to be spent on such expansion and linkage programmes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) to (c). By virtue of technical spill-over Doordarshan's programmes are already being received in Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Parts of Burma and China. These programmes can be seen with appropriately designed Dish-Antenna system. With the acquisition of additional transponder for regional services within the country, the TV signal is likely to spill over to some additional Asian countries.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering to make the net-work programmes more attractive, which are at present not so fascinating and entertaining and as a result the people of India are learning drawn towards the Cable and Star T.V. ?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir the hon. Member's concern over the inclination of our people towards some of the programmes telecast by the neighboring countries is quite natural. Our Ministry is equally concerned about it. So, besides laying emphasis on the interesting, attractive and entertaining programmes on T.V., we are also endeavouring to increase the strength of the Doordarshan so that the people of our country may not be inclined further towards the programmes of neighboring countries. Our Ministry is committed to this.

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second question is whether it is a fact that the Vardhan Committee has already submitted some of its recommendations in this regard to the Government; if so, the details of the recommendations thereof; and when those recommendations would be implemented by the Government?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): Sir, Vardhan Committee was formed for the purpose of finding out mainly if public corporations are floated, under what circumstances they are to be given and to find out the opinion of various experts and also of those who show their willingness to participate in such public corporations which will compete with Doordarshan. That was the purpose for which the Vardhan Committee was appointed. The Committee was not appointed for finding out the impact of foreign satellites on India.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal before the Government to connect each and every corner of the country through the multi-channel with the Doordarshan's programme besides making it more effective; and if so, the arrangements being made by the Government to provide funds for it.

[*English*]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA: Out whole intention and desire is to first cover entire India. Through Doordarshan, we have now been able to cover 78 per cent of the population. Therefore, the first emphasise is to cover the rest of the area. That is why we are making the groundwork ready. Wherever required very low power transmitters are set up, we are setting up Low Power Transmitters(LPT) and High Power Transmitters(HPT), gradually and as fund is available. The Eighth Plan is coming. As regards the remaining portion of the area, we try to cover as much as possible within the finances available. We have projected our plan to the Planning Commission and if that is sanctioned fully, we will be able to cover most of the uncovered area with better programmes.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: What are the plans, timewise and moneywise, to acquire these additional transporters? When will the work be completed? In how many additional Asian countries will the programmes be received and which are those countries?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: At present we are covering the programmes through INSAT 1-D and Arab-Sat. So far as the future programme projected by the Department of Space is concerned, after INSAT 1-D, INSAT-2 series come into being. Hon. Members will be happy to know that we have been informed by Prof. U.R.Rao, Chairman, ISRO that the new satellite, viz. INSAT-2, indigenously made by Indian scientists and technocrats for the first time, has come out of the laboratories and it is now put inside the simulated space model for purposed of inspection. Last week I met him personally when he came for discussions at my invitation. He has said that things have been operating nicely and the targeted date is March next year when it will be put in the sky. INSAT-2 will consist of 5 spacecraft. The first two spacecraft, INSAT-2A and INSAT-2B are planned to be experimental in nature and these are not meant for operational use at this stage. In the event of successful opera-

tion, one of them has been tentatively planned for operation purposes. INSAT-2A is planned to be launched in March 1992 and INSAT-2B in March 1993. The operational space craft of INSAT-2 series shall become available thereafter in the years 1993 to 1995. In order to cover the uncovered area with better programmes and better transmission, Doordarshan has tentatively allotted the use of 4 S-Band and 4 C-Band and 6-extended C-Band transponders under INSAT-2 series. I have with me in detail the possible utilisation pattern when the three INSAT-2 series satellites become operational. I will give the details if the hon. member so desires.

[Translation]

SHRI AYUB KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to point out categorically to the hon. Minister that a large area of Rajasthan-Barmer, Anupgarh, Ganga Nagar, Bikaner, Jaisalmer is located along the border of Pakistan and the people of those areas like to enjoy Pakistani Programmes neglecting our programmes because the strength of T.V. Tower is low and the quality of our programmes is sub-standard. I would like to know the steps being taken by the Government in this regard.

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under 'the coverage in border areas plan' the land has been acquired and the work is in progress in regard to setting up a 10 K.W. high-power transmitter in Barmer and Jaisalmer. And under the 'strengthen of border areas plan' Anoopgarh is being covered and in the long run the Jodhpur area is also to be covered.

[English]

Provision of Telephone Lines

*346. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN:
SHRI ARJUN CHARAN
SETHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently decided to provide seven lakh telephone lines in the country during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the guidelines laid down by the Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). Yes Sir, The guideline in determining this target has been the objective of rapid expansion of the network for increased availability of Telephones in the country. The attempt is to reach a level of 20 Million Telephone connections by the year 2000 by regulating the rate of expansion of the network.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was very specific, as to whether by the year end the Government will be able to provide 7 lakh telephone connections in the country. I would like to know whether the Government has any agency to monitor the progress of the work. We read in the newspapers that every day the Government is providing 200 telephone connections in different parts of the country. May I know from the hon. Minister the progress in this regard, especially in the rural areas, and whether he can give us the State-wise details of the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the target of our Department is to give 7 lakh telephone connections this year. We could not cross the figure of 4.5 lakhs this year. But, we had fixed a higher target because the demand of telephones is going very high. I may inform the House that the progress made in this area is very satisfactory and we will meet the target of 7 lakh by March 1991-92.

Secondly, Sir, he has asked about our providing 200 telephone connections per day. I think he has read it slightly wrong. Our target is to give about 100 connections per day. We decided this in the month of Decem-