

(vii) Demand for converting the Kakinada Low Power T.V. Transmitter Station into High Power Transmitter Station

SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA (Kakinada): The public in and around Kakinada town is deprived of enjoying the T.V. programmes as the programmes from Ceylon not only dominate but also cloud the programmes of Kakinada. The picture on T.V. screen in Kakinada is not clearly visible and the sound is not audible. The reason for this appears to be that Kakinada town is a coastal town within the reach of microwaves generated from the sea.

It was announced at Hyderabad that some Lower Power Transmitter stations will be converted into High Power Transmitters. I, therefore, request that the Kakinada Low Power Transmitter Station which has failed to serve the need of the people may kindly be converted into a High Power Transmitter.

(viii) Demand for not de-centralising the dealing operational of State Bank of India, International Division, Central Office, Bombay

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The decision of the State Bank of India, International Division, Central Office, Bombay to decentralise the Bank's dealing operations, on the ground of difficulty in maintaining telecommunication links with Foreign Department, Calcutta from the important centres outside Bengal has hampered the customer services in the Bank's Foreign Exchange Business and for quotation of firm competitive foreign exchange rates to face the stiff competition from the domestic and foreign banks in the foreign exchange market.

But the reality is that with substantial improvement in communications during the past few months even such branches are able to reach Foreign Department daily, either through telex or through telephone. Foreign Department also maintains hot lines with Hyderabad, New Delhi, Madras and Bombay offices. Branches at these centres are able to reach Foreign Department promptly and often several times during the day. In fact, due to substantial improvement in communications during the recent past, even branches like Tel Bhawan are able to reach Foreign Department daily either through telex or telephone. Therefore, the State Bank of India authorities contention of communication difficulties in this case has no basis. As there is stiff competition among the nationalised banks, including their own Bank in developing business, there is need for gearing up the machinery for providing prompt and efficient services so that no acceptable/profitable business goes past the Bank.

I, therefore, request the Minister to desist from the move of decentralisation of dealing and cover operations from State Bank, Foreign Department, Calcutta.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, I wanted to propose that the discussion listed in today's business under Rule 193 may be postponed to 3 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think, the House will accept that.

MANY HON. MEMBERS: Yes.