

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Some grade of ore as contracted for export was available from MOIL, but MOIL did not accept the price offered by the MMTC and hence supplies had to be procured by the MMTC from other suppliers in India. No ore was procured from abroad by MMTC.

T.V. Transmitter at Amalapuram

*135. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that even after raising the height of the low power TV transmitter at Amalapuram, the reception of the TV programmes covers less than an area of three kilometres;

(b) if so, the corrective steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether the technical experts are of the opinion that UHF band is not meant for places like Amalapuram where thick vegetation and tall coconut plantations obstruct reception; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to replace UHF band with VHF band?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (d) A low Power TV Transmitter, operating on channel 23 in UHF Band, was commissioned at Amalapuram in October, 1989. Its coverage was, however, severely limited because of the obstruction caused by the thick vegetation and tall coconut plantations surrounding the transmitter site. To overcome this handicap to the extent possible, height of the mast on which the transmitting antenna is mounted, was increased

from the earlier 100 feet to 150 feet. This resulted in appreciable improvement in the coverage of the transmitter. Reception of the transmitter has now been found to be satisfactory upto 12-15 Kms distance (inclusive of fringe areas) subject to availability of line of sight. In view of all plantation in the area, receiving antennae of about 30-40 feet height are required to be used for obtaining satisfactory reception. Boosters are required to be used for obtaining satisfactory reception in fringe areas beyond 8-10 Kms.

It is not, however, true that the situation can be overcome by the replacement of the existing TV transmitter by one operating in Very High Frequency (VHF) Band. The reach of a TV transmitter depends on availability of clear line of sight irrespective of the fact whether the transmitter is operating in VHF or UHF Band. It has also to be reckoned with that with the establishment of a large number of TV transmitter operating in VHF Band in the country, this Band has become congested making it imperative to establish UHF transmitters in certain parts of the country to avoid frequency interference from the neighbouring transmitters. It is because of this constraint that establishment of a UHF transmitter at Amalapuram has been considered imperative.

Transfer of bank accounts of Kashmiri migrants

*136. SHRI L.K. ADVANI:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what instructions have been issued regarding withdrawal of money by the Kashmiri migrants from their bank accounts left behind in the Valley;

(b) the number of applications which have been received so far by

the nationalised banks from the migrants for transfer of their bank accounts from the Valley;

(c) the number of accounts which have actually been transferred and are so operating; and

(d) whether any monitoring is being done Centrally to eliminate delays in such transfer of accounts?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d) With a view to enable the Kashmir migrants to operate their accounts, Reserve Bank of India have issued instructions to banks to make expeditious arrangements for transfer of bank accounts/funds maintained with their branches in the Kashmir Valley to other branches outside the Valley, if so desired by the customers.

Public sector banks received 4512 (approximately) applications till 30th June, 1990 from the Kashmiri migrants for transfer of their accounts from the Valley. 4097 (approximately) accounts have been transferred upto 30th June, 1990 and are in operation.

Regional/Zonal Offices of banks at Delhi, Chandigarh, Jammu and Srinagar are monitoring the process of transfer of accounts in order to eliminate any delay in effecting such transfers. Jammu Office of the Reserve Bank of India is also assisting banks in sorting out any difficulties in the matter.

[Translation]

Import of Edible Oil and Cement

*138. **SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of edible oil and cement imported from January, 1990 to 30 June, 1990 and the amount of foreign exchange spent thereon; and

(b) whether Government propose to import more quantity of edible oil during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) (i) *Edible Oil:* A quantity of 2,15,570 tonnes of Palmolein at a total CIF Value of Rs. 112.10 crores has been imported by the State Trading Corporation during the period 1st January, 1990 till 30th June, 1990.

(ii) *Cement:* A quantity of 904 tonnes of Cement for a value of Rs. 19.29 lakhs has been imported during January, '90—May, '90. Data for Cement are available upto May, '90.

(b) *Edible Oil:* Further imports of edible oils during 1990-91 will largely depend on the production of edible oilseeds in the ensuing kharif season. The other factors to be considered in deciding import of edible oils will be prices of indigenous oils, availability of foreign exchange and prices of edible oil in the international market. As such it is not possible to indicate the extent of further imports of edible oils for 1990-91.

A.I.R. Centre in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh

*139. **SHRI AMRATLAL VALLABHDAS TARWALA:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether A.I.R. Centre in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh has been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in its commissioning; and

(c) the time by which regular broadcasting is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposed radio station at Khandwa is expected to be commissioned shortly.