

Doordarshan Transmission Coverage of Kerala Districts

*16. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all districts in the State of Kerala are covered by the Doordarshan transmission;

(b) if not, the districts yet to be covered;

(c) whether work has commenced to link these remaining districts under the microwave system; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (d). All the 14 districts of Kerala are covered by TV Service, wholly or partially. The Regional TV Service emanating from Doordarshan Kendra, Trivandrum, is relayed at present only by the High Power (10 KW) TV transmitters at Trivandrum and Cochin and the Low Power (100 W) TV transmitter at Calicut and is available, wholly or partially, in all the districts except three, namely, Kasargod, Wayanad and Cannanore.

The VII Plan of Doordarshan includes a scheme for replacement of the existing Low Power (100 W) TV transmitter at Calicut by a (100 KW) TV transmitter. With the completion of this project, Regional TV Service is expected to be available to almost entire districts of Wayanad and Cannanore also. The VII Plan of Doordarshan, however, does not have any scheme to link any other transmitter in the State with the Doordarshan

Kendra, Trivandrum, for relay of programmes originating from Trivandrum. The expansion of Regional TV Service in Kerala would depend upon future availability of resources and requisite facilities.

[Translation]

Overseas unit of General Insurance Corporation

*17. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an overseas unit of the General Insurance Corporation of India for insurance business abroad; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The four subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India viz. (i) National Insurance Company Ltd., (ii) New India Insurance Company Ltd., (iii) Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. and (iv) United India Insurance Company Ltd. are already operating in 31 countries abroad. Out of these 31 countries, they are operating in 17 countries directly through Branches/Agencies and in 14 countries through Associate/Subsidiary Companies as under:—

Directly through Branches and Agencies

- (1) Australia
- (2) Bahrain
- (3) Canada
- (4) Fiji
- (5) France