

Rs. 226.06 crores and have not signed the agreement.

(c) Extension of time were given to all the companies till 30th October, 2000 for furnishing Bank Guarantee and signing of agreement.

(d) As per the terms to tender the advance licence fee paid by such companies stand forfeited. However, some of the companies have filed Writ Petitions in the High Court of Delhi for refund of the advance licence fee and EMD paid by them.

Plans for improvement in the functioning of Doordarshan

†739. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a cut-throat competition is expected between Government controlled D.D. and other private T.V. Channels after the Direct-to-Home Scheme has been approved by Government;

(b) if so, whether Doordarshan is making necessary improvements in the face of challenges ahead; and

(c) if so, the plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

ABCL dues to Doordarshan

740. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

SHRI RAJANATH SING 'SURYA':

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

(a) whether it is fact that ABCL owes a huge amount to Doordarshan;

(b) if so, what was the original amount and has it now been scaled down;

(c) if so, by how much;

(d) whether the amount due to Doordarshan contains interest amount for the period payment has been pending;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[27 November, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) by when the dues are expected to be recovered?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati have intimated that as per their record the details of outstanding dues of M/s. ABCL are as under:

(i) Principal Amount: Rs. 19.82 crores.

(ii) Interest: Rs. 13 crores (approximately),

The dues have not scale down.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Prasar Bharati have intimated that the proceeding against the agency initiated by them for recovery of dues have been stayed by Mumbai High court, as the agency has been declared a sick unit and referred to Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). BIFR has directed the Industrial Development Bank of India, the operating agency, that while finalising rehabilitation package of the company, the interest of Doordarshan dues may be kept in mind. Prasar Bharati is also negotiating with the company to liquidate the outstanding. No time frame for recovery of dues can be given at present.

Telecasting of sports events at Sydney Olympics

†741. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

DR. D. MASTHAN:

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

(a) whether live telecast of the sports events of Sydney Olympics was made by Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the revenue earned by Doordarshan through advertisements during their telecast; and

(c) the total expenditure Doordarshan had to incur on all activities from the time of obtaining telecast rights till the telecast of the events?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.