

- (4) With a view to increasing the indigenous availability of newsprint, paper mills producing newsprint conforming to BIS standards are placed in Schedule I of the Newsprint Control Order, 1962, declaring them as mills manufacturing newsprint.

Central Aid to the Institutes working for Poor in Chamoli (U.P.)

***317. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:** Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Member of Parliament has forwarded a case regarding Central aid to the institutes working for the poor in the District Chamoli, U.P. on the 10th June, 1999;

(b) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has forwarded a case of M/s. Naveen Institute of Computer Education vide letter No. 168/26-2-99/11/54/99, dated 24th April, 1999 for the Central grant; and

(c) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) This Ministry had received the case of Naveen Institute of Computer Education from the Government of Uttar Pradesh vide their letter No. 168/26-2-99/11/54/99, dated 6th April, 1999 (not 24th April, 1999) for the grant. The case was considered and could not be acceded to. The organization was informed on 17th November, 1999 accordingly.

Export of Software

***318 SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the extent of export of software during the current financial year;

(b) the States from where the software has been exported, together with the quantum thereof; and

(c) the quantum of software exported from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The estimated export of software for the first half of the current financial year (April-September 1999) is Rs. 8000 crores: (Source: Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council).

(b) and (c) Ministry of Commerce maintains export data for the country as a whole and not State-wise.

Low Earning by Doordarshan through Commercials

***319. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total revenue earned by Doordarshan through Commercials in current financial year;

(b) what steps are being taken to improve this revenue by competitive rates vis-a-vis private channels;

(c) what are the main reasons for low revenue by Doordarshan; and

(d) what are the thrust areas which can be explored for better earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Prasar Bharati has reported that a sum of Rs. 294.87 crores has been earned by Doordarshan through commercial advertisements during the period March, 1999 to 15th December, 1999. Projected earnings in the current financial year are to the tune of Rs. 500 crores.

(b) to (d) According to Prasar Bharati, fragmentation of viewership, increased competition from satellite channels and economic slackness are the main reasons behind Doordarshan not getting the desired/targetted revenue. Prasar Bharati has reported that telecast of high quality programmes, rationalisation of commercial rate card, introduction of holidays and Saturday feature films, improvement in quality, content and transmission of its regional programmes, attractive packaging and presentation and digital transmission in satellite mode are some major steps taken to increase its commercial revenue.