

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the revised policy;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the revised policy had been framed after due consultation with prominent producers; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) The scheme for selection of sponsored serials was revised in April, 1987. Under the revised scheme a three-tier system comprising Preliminary Committee, a Selection Committee and Appeal Committee has been introduced for selection of TV serials. The composition and functions of these Committees are as under :—

Preliminary Committee :

Preliminary Committee for scrutinising the concept of the proposals consists of Deputy Director General (Commercial and Films), Controller of Programmes (Commercial) and Assistant Controller of Programmes (Commercial). The proposals vetted by this Committee are submitted to Director General for his scrutiny.

Selection Committee:

Selection Committee consists of Director General, Doordarshan, Deputy Director General (Commercial), Controller of Programmes (Commercial) and two non-official members—at least one of whom has to be a lady member. The two non-official members are taken from a panel of 12 non-officials which has been prepared for this purpose.

Appeal Committee:

In case of appeal against proposals rejected by the Preliminary Committee, rejected proposals are put up to the Selection Committee which has two non-official members for decision. Proposals rejected by the Selection Committee are re-

viewed by a larger committee in which there are two other non-official members in addition to the two non-official members who had scrutinised the proposals earlier.

With a view to encouraging creative persons in the field of culture, art, films and TV, Doordarshan has decided to introduce a system of registration of Producers/Directors. The scheme was recently publicised and applications were invited by 30-10-87.

Before the scheme for selection of TV serials and registration of Producers/Directors was introduced, discussions were held informally with a cross-section of Producers of TV programmes.

Freight equalisation policy

***9. SHRI CHITTA BASU:**
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision so far regarding the phasing out of the Freight Equalisation Policy relating to Steel and Iron; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Government has decided that the question of phasing out of Freight Equalisation Scheme should be referred to the National Development Council.

Loss due to drought in A.P.

***10. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central team had recently submitted their report to Government regarding the severe drought in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the total loss suffered by the State in this regard; and