

view in the Janavani programme for telecast over the national network of Doordarshan.

After the present scheme is implemented the reactions | responses of the viewers will be studied and assessment made about the need, if any, for introducing this programme on Doordarshan Kendras in various States.

**Freedom Fighters' pensions to Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli freedomfighters**

2278. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to grant freedom fighters' pensions to the freedom fighters of Goa and Dadra and Nagar Haveli; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) Central Government's Scheme of Pension to freedom fighters namely 'Swatantrata Sainik Samman y\_ Pension Scheme' is applicable to both the Union Territories and eligible freedom fighters are given pension. In the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu there is another pension scheme namely Goa, Daman and Diu Freedom Fighters Welfare Rules under which pension is given to freedom fighters. This Scheme has further been liberalised in May, 1986.

**Setting up of earth stations**

2279. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of places in the country where earth stations have been established so far;

(b) to what uses these stations are being put; and

(c) what are the details of plans to establish more earth stations and the time-targets for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Satellite Earth stations at following places in the country have been established so far for domestic satellite communication: —

(i) 29 earth stations have been set up by Department of Telecom, at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Shillong, Jalandhar, Jaipur, Lucknow, Patna, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Ernakulam, Bhubneshwar, Aizawl, Imphal, Itanagar, Kohima, Agartala, Gangtok, Port Blair, Car Nicobar, Kavaratty, Mini Coy, Bhuj, Panjim, Jodhpur, Srinagar, Leh & Kulu.

(ii) Five earth stations have been set up for public sector undertakings at urban & Offshore station (ONGC), Manakpur & Bangalore (ITI) and Vijaipur (NFL). Two earth stations have been set up by Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. for international satellite communication. (i) Arvi (Pune) and (ii) Lachiwala (Dehradun).

(b> These stations are being used for providing national and international long distance trunk telephone connections as well as national and international television coverage via satellite.

(c) Following plans have been drawn up to establish additional earth stations in the country in the 7th Plan: —

(i) 10 Transportable earth stations.

(ii) 18 earth stations in the remote backward and hilly areas of the country.

State-wise plan of the 18 earth stations is as follows: —

Jammu & Kashmir	4
Himachal Pradesh	2
Uttar Pradesh	3
Rajasthan	1
Orissa.	X
Andaman & Nicobar (Island)	3
Arunachal Pradesh	4

(iii) 26 earth stations in district headquarters and border towns of North Eastern region.

(iv) Besides a few more propo-sals to set up earth stations in Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar islands are under consideration.

#### Developing certain areas in Orissa as Tiger sanctuary

2280. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop certain areas in the State of Orissa as a sanctuary for tigers; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 2750 sq. km. of the forest area in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa has been established as Similipal Tiger Reserve. This area is receiving Central Assistance for the preservation of the flora and fauna under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Project Tiger', and has received from the Central Government Rs. 63.16 lacs during the Sixth and Seventh Five Year Plans.

#### Telephones Exchanges in Bihar

2281. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the number of automatic and electronic telephone exchanges sanctioned by Government for Bihar during 1986-87, separately;

(b) the places where these exchanges have started functioning;

(c) by when the remaining exchanges are likely to start functioning;

(d) "whether it is a fact that the building for Begusarai telephone exchange is ready but the instruments have not been installed which, if installed, will be useful for Barauni Industrial Complex, and

(e) if so what are the reasons for delay and by when this exchange is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The number of automatic and electronic exchanges sanctioned during 1986-87 is 15 and 5 respectively.

(b) The information is given in the enclosed Statement (*See below*).

(c) The remaining exchanges are likely to start functioning by March 1988 subject to availability of stores and material.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The delay is due to non-availability of equipment. In anticipation of receipt of equipment, building work had commenced. The exchange is likely to start functioning by the first quarter of 1988.

#### Statement

The names of places where automatic exchanges have started functioning: —

(1) Ghogha—25 lines MAX-III

(2) Guraru—25 line MAX-III