

Revenue earned from commercial telecasts

*382. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the revenue earned from commercial telecasts during 1975-76; and

(b) whether government propose to allot more time for such telecasts?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The commercials on T.V. were introduced from January 1, 1976. The gross revenue earned during the period January 1 to March 31, 1976, amounted to Rs 9,92,290.

(b) At present, commercial telecasts from a T. V. Centre are not to exceed 10 per cent if its total telecast time. There is no proposal at present to increase the time.

Indian Film Festival in U.S.A.

*383. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO:
SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA:

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

(a) whether the US Government have agreed to hold an Indian Film Festival;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the agreement in this regard; and

(c) what criteria is proposed to be adopted for the selection of films for the Festival?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) The minutes of the meeting of the Indo-US Sub-Commission on Education and Culture held in Washington on 4th and 5th May, 1976, wherein it was reported to have been

agreed that USA would hold an Indian Film Festival there, are still awaited.

Incidents of drowning in the Public Swimming Pool in Chandigarh

*384. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH TALIB:

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN:

SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU:
SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a student of 16 years of age died on the 3rd May, 1976 due to drowning in the public swimming pool in Sector 23, Chandigarh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that incidents of drowning of children in this swimming pool occur every year; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI OM MEHTA): (a) to (c) According to information received from the Chandigarh Administration, a boy, aged 16 years, died on the 2nd May, 1976 due to drowning in the public swimming pool in Sector 23, Chandigarh. It is not correct that the incidents of drowning of children occur in the swimming pool every year. However, the Chandigarh Admn. have taken a number of safety measures. These include the posting of an expert swimmer-cum-diver during the operation of the swimming pool and avoidance of overcrowding. Provision of chains and ropes and life belts at the site is being made.

Development of Backward Areas

*385. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to develop the backward areas

notified as such by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, what are the main features thereof; and

(c) what are the achievements so far made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SANKAR GHOSE): (a) and (b) For certain types of backward areas like hill areas and tribal areas, the process of development is sought to be accelerated through the implementation of sub-plans which are being prepared for such areas. The strategy adopted for the preparation of these sub-plans is to evolve a fully integrated development programme to ensure all round progress. For certain other special problem areas like drought prone areas and areas which have a predominance of small and marginal farmers, area based programmes which envisage flow of all necessary inputs in the form of a package to enable accelerated economic development are being implemented. In addition, a programme of giving incentives to enable accelerated industrialisation of identified backward areas is also being implemented. Concessional finance, industrial subsidy scheme etc. have been formulated and are being implemented in these areas.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix XCVI, Annexure No 45].

Annual Plan for Bihar for 1976-77

*386. DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Annual Plan for Bihar for the year 1976-77 has been approved by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, what will be the total outlay thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SANKAR GHOSE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 242.04 crores.

Launching of second satellite

*387. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced that a second and a more sophisticated satellite for earth observation (SEO) will be launched shortly; and

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

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Space Research Organisation has plans to place in orbit an Earth Observation Satellite which is essentially a modification of Aryabhata, having more complex payload, data handling and control system. This Satellite will weigh slightly over 400 Kgs. and will carry two television cameras and microwave radiometers payloads. This would enable photography and remote sensing of gross features, which will be applicable to forestry, study of bio-masses, hydrological features, etc. This is scheduled to be launched sometime in 1978.

राजपत्रीय छुट्टी का वैकल्पिक छुट्टी में बदल जाना

*388. श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि जन्माष्टमी को जिसे इस वर्ष पहले राजपत्रित छुट्टी