

of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor are also important objectives of the Act. Schedule-I of MGNREGA as amended from time to time lists the category of works that any Scheme prepared by a State Government under Section 4 (I) of MGNREG Act shall focus upon. Activities such as water conservation and water harvesting including contour trenches, contour bunds, boulder checks, gabion structures, underground dykes, earthen dams, stop dams and spring shed development, drought proofing including afforestation and tree plantation, dug out farm pond, horticulture, plantation and renovation of traditional water bodies including desilting of tanks are permissible activities under Schedule-I of MGNREG Act and has a considerable positive impact on ground water recharge and revival of water bodies.

Access to Doordarshan

*132. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite Doordarshan's transmitters covering a major part of the country, approximately 50 per cent of the Indian population has no access to the national broadcaster;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard and whether Government proposes to bring forward a comprehensive broadcasting legislation during the current or next Session of Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati has reported that there are 1415 Transmitters in Doordarshan network, which provide coverage to about 92% population of the country spread over about 81% area. In addition, the whole of India is covered by multi-channel TV coverage through Doordarshan's free-to-air DTH service "DD Direct Plus".

CSIR's focus on rural areas and small towns

*133. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is turning its attention to rural areas and small towns, by informing them how they would be benefited from technologies; and