

[16 August, 2004]

RAJYASABHA

least three months. The Government, in the larger interests of the public, has suspended the implementation of CAS in the four metros until further orders through a notification issued on 27th Feb. 2004. The High Court of Madras has, however, granted absolute stay on the suspension of the CAS in Chennai, where it is currently under implementation.

DD programmes in Chhattisgarh

1268. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan programmes have their reach in the entire area of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government would set up more VLPT/LPT in each districts to ensure the reach of Doordarshan even in remote areas of the state;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be done; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Doordarshan coverage in terrestrial mode is presently available to about 79.5% population of Chhattisgarh and about 69.2% of its area.

(b) to (d) For further expansion of TV coverage in Chhattisgarh, an HPT at Bilaspur (Bilaspur Distt.) and a VLPT at Devbhog (Raipur Distt.) are currently under implementation. The VLPT project at Devbhog is expected to be completed during 2004-05 and the HPT project at Bilaspur by the end of 2005-06. With commissioning of the above transmitters, about 90% population of the State is expected to be brought under the coverage and areawise coverage is expected to increase from the present 69.2% to about 75.3%. Further TV coverage to uncovered areas of the country is now envisaged to be provided through satellite transmission in Ku-Band, which is expected to commence shortly.

Law and order problems due to domestic satellite TV channels

1269. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that some domestic

satellite TV channels often telecast news items that create law and order problem in the States;

(b) whether Government would set up a statutory body with representation from the respective State Governments to take action on such TV Channels; and

(c) the steps taken as of now to curb this trend of TV channels?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) No specific instance in this regard has come to the notice of the Government.

Programmes transmitted/retransmitted through the cable network are required to adhere to the Programme Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Code, *inter alia*, prohibits telecast of any programme which is likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything against maintenance of law and order or which promotes anti-national attitudes or contains anything affecting the integrity of the Nation.

Under Section 19 of the Act, the "Authorised Officers" *i.e.* the SDM, DM or Commissioner of Police within their respective jurisdiction have the powers to prohibit, by order, any transmission or retransmission of any programme or channel if it is not in conformity with the prescribed Programme Code or is likely to promote, on grounds of religion, race, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, linguistic or regional groups or castes or communities or which is likely to disturb the public tranquillity.

Implementation of CAS

1270. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had issued a Consultative note for meaningful examination of various issues involved in implementation of Conditional Access System (CAS), standard rates and conditions at which services are to be provided by the Cable operators to the consumers;