

wide variety of programme requirements for various sections of viewers are accommodated. Therefore, it is not considered feasible to include 'Sansad Samachar' and 'Parliament News' in the National Programme of Doordarshan.

Implementation of recommendation of Revenue Ministers' Conference

***239. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA :**
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in May 1985, the State Revenue Minister had agreed that agricultural land ceiling limit be lowered for a family of 5 members to 5 hectares for the best category of land with assured irrigation and capable of raising at least two crops in a year, 7.5 hectares for the next category with assured irrigation for at least one crop a year, and 12 hectares for the rest ;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in each State in this regard ; and

(c) what steps in this direction have been taken by the Central Government in the Union Territories

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G.S. DHILLON):

(a) to (c) According to the consensus arrived at in the Revenue Ministers' Conference, this issue was left to be considered by the State Governments and the Union Territories. All the

States/Union Territory Administrations have not yet taken a final view on the issue.

High cost of Cultivation

***240. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that price mechanism is the main incentive to our farmers; and

(b) whether it is a fact that high-cost of cultivation is receiving Government's attention, if so, what are the details of high-cost of cultivation with regard to wheat, rice, pulses and oil-seeds

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON):

(a) Price mechanism is one of the incentive given to the farmers.

(b) Cost of production is governed by the prices of inputs as well as by productivity. The Government have been making sustained efforts not only to increase yields but also ensure availability of inputs at reasonable prices for the cultivation of all crops including wheat, rice, pulses and oilseeds.

M-BAHN Magnetic Trains for Delhi

†1055. SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for the

†Previously Unstarred Question 374 transferred from the 23rd July, 1986.

introduction of magnetic rail called M-BAHN ;

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

(c) by when it is likely to become operational ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Railway Board has set up a study group to consider various issues involved in introducing a Rapid Transit System in the cities. A view in the matter will be taken by the Government after receipt of the recommendations of the study group.

Freight Equalisation in Railways

†1056. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :
SHRIGURUDAS DAS GUPTA :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the freight equalisation in Railways in respect of coal and steel deprives most backward regions of India namely Bihar, Eastern U.P., Orissa and Bengal of the advantages of location ;

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

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

†Previously Unstarred Question 464 transferred from the 23rd July, 1986.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) :

(a) and (b) There is no scheme of freight equalisation for Coal. The scheme of freight equalisation is applicable to iron and steel. The States in the eastern region are deprived of the locational advantage only to the extent of the freight in excess of the normal railway freight for transporting iron and steel.

(c) The Government have already decided in principle to phase out the freight equalisation scheme.

Delay in Implementation of Major Steel Projects

§1057. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) to what extent the implementation of major steel projects in the country has been delayed and what is the extent of cost escalation as against the original estimates in respect of each of the projects and

(b) what factors are responsible for the delay in this regard and what steps have been taken by Government to remove the constraints in completion of these projects according to the revised schedule ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K.C. PANT) :

(a) Details are given in the Annexure.

§Previously Unstarred Question 464 transferred from the 24th July, 1986.