

Surrey to Gauge the Popularity of Serials

1648. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials in Door-darshan decide the acceptability of a particular programme or serial like 'Nukkad' or whether Door-darshan conduct any survey to find out the acceptability of such programmes ; and

(b) if so, what are the criteria for giving extension to various serials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL): (a) and (b) The proposals for serials are considered by a Selection Committee which besides officials of Doordarshan also includes non-official member: from outside Doordarshan. Serials are approved for number of episodes and extension is considered on merits in individual cases depending on factors like popularity, production quality, impact, audience reaction, critics opinion and programme requirements of Doordarshan.

Import of Pulses

1649. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of pulses imported during the last three years; and

(b) the quantity of pulses to be proposed to be imported during 1986 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRAMAKWANA):

(a) The quantity of pulses imported during 1982-83 and 1983-84 were of the order of 1.02 lakh tonnes and 2.28 lakh tonnes respectively. Data on actual imports during 1984-85 are not available. However, according to National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) which is registering contracts for import of pulses, the quantity for which contracts were registered for imports during 1984-85 was of the order of 3.14 lakh tonnes.

(b) Pulses are allowed for imports by all persons under Open General Licence subject to registration of contracts with NAFED and fulfilment of the required procedures. As such, it is not possible to anticipate the import of pulses that would be made by the importers.

Aralam Central Agricultural Farm, Kerala

1650. SHRI M. A. BABY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any disputes regarding the minimum wages of workers in the Aralam Central Agricultural Farm in Cannanore district, Kerala;

(b) if so, whether it is due to the refusal of the concerned authorities to implement the award of the arbitration ;

(c) what steps have been taken by the authorities to implement the arbitration award now, since the special leave petition filed in the Supreme Court was decided in favour of the workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The award of the Arbitrator has not been implemented by the State Farms Corporation of India as it is not considered practicable to implement it in its present form.

However the management of State Farms Corporation of India is making all possible efforts to arrive at a negotiated settlement with the concerned labour unions.

Agitation by Employees of Durgapur Steel Plant

1651. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALVIYA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Durgapur Steel Plant, the Indian Iron and Steel Company and those who are working in their Calcutta Offices are agitating in support of their demands;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) what steps Government are taking in the matter.?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) to (c) A sit-in-demonstration (Dharna) was staged on 23-7-86 by some of the employees of India Iron & Steel Company (IISCO), Burnpur Durgapur Steel Plant, Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur at these plant and at their Calcutta offices.

The demands made by these employees and the latest position thereof are given in the Annexure.

{See Appendix CXXXIX, Annexure No. 94}.

Settlement of Crop Insurance Claims in Sanrashtra, Gujarat

1652- SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers of Saurashtra region of Gujarat are facing difficulty in getting their claims under crop insurance scheme ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the farmers of Amreli District had recently resorted to agitation for settlement of their claims under the crop insurance scheme and yet the claims remain unsettled ;

(c) the details of the paid and unpaid claims so far under crop insurance scheme in Saurashtra region ;

(d) the reasons for the delay in settlement of the claims and for the pending claims ; and

(e) whether the delay in prompt settlement of claims would adversely effect prospects of crop insurance business, if so, what remedial measures are proposed to be taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (d) The claims amounting to Rs. 65.64 crore were intimated to the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) with respect to the seven districts of Saurashtra region in Gujarat for Kharif 1985 season. On scrutiny, claims of the order of Rs. 20 crores were found to be inadmissible. Out of the balance Rs. 45.64 crore claims amounting to Rs. 42.51 crore have since been paid leaving a balance of Rs. 3.13 crore which will be paid shortly. As reported by Government of Gujarat in Amreli district there was agitation due to delay in settlement of claims. However, the admissible