

(c) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) East Godavari District is covered by two low power TV transmitters functioning at Kakinada and Rajamundry and the 1 KW high power transmitter at Vijayawada. The coverage would further improve when the transmitter at Vijayawada is commissioned on full power of 10 KW during 1986. Any further extension of TV service to the district would depend upon availability of resources during future plans for TV expansion.

Loss to coconut crop

754. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Konaseema area in Andhra Pradesh is well known throughout the country for production of best quality of coconut;

(b) whether Government are also aware that due to failure of Government to fix remunerative prices for coconut, the prices have slumped suddenly and that coconut is now available at about Rs. 900/- for a thousand as against the previous price of Rs.3,000/- per thousand; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to help starving coconut growers by ensuring a reasonably remunerative price to them for the produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CORPORATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Konaseema area in Andhra Pradesh is growing coconut varieties East Coast Tall and Gangabondam dwarf. Gangabondam dwarf is a good mother palm for production of hybrid seednuts.

(b) and (c) At Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh, coconut price does not appear to have reached Rs. 3000 per thousand nuts at any time in the last five years. Price ruled at Rs. 1250 per thousand nuts in October, 1985. The State Government of Kerala through its Cooperative Marketing Federation has intervened in the market to support coconut farmers. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been advised to study the Kerala Scheme for necessary action.

Survey of waste land

755. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out a survey to identify the waste-land in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof (State-wise) and what action is proposed by Government to make this land useful for cultivation; and

(c) what is the percentage of such land in each State to the total cultivable land and land already under cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) The Government have, as part of regular crop inspections carried out by revenue agencies in most of the States, been collecting the data on land utilisation according to the nine-fold classification every year. This provides, inter-alia, estimates of area under "culturable waste land". The extent of culturable waste land as also its percentage to total "cultivable area" and "cultivated area", State-wise, during 1981-82 is given in the enclosed statement. (See below)

The Government have been taking various steps to identify and reclaim wastelands in different States by constituting 'Waste Land Survey and Reclamation Committee' (1959) and through a Centrally Sponsored scheme for 'Survey and Categorisation of