

working and thus hampering the activities of programme production units; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to replace and repair faulty equipment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): '(a) No, Sir. fault has been observed in the TV transmitter at Ahmedabad. However, at present; the signal in one direction is obstructed due to construction of 150 metre RCC power in close proximity of the temporary mast of low height which is being used for operation of the transmitter on reduced power of 1 KW. On completion of the RCC tower, the temporary mast will be removed and the transmitter would be operationalised on full power of 10 KW, leaving to improved Service.

(b) No, Sir. The two ENG Cameras are new Cameras and no report about their malfunctioning has been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Decentralisation of power to Sanction R.L.S.G.P: Project

668. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every project under the Rural Landless Employment Gaurantee Programme has to be got cleared be the Central Sanctioning Committee of the Government of India which results in inordinate delays;

(b) whether the Chief Minister of Gujarat has requested the Government of India to decentralise the sanctioning power to the State level and whether the Conference of Chief Secretaries had also highlighted this problem; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to initiate in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR). (a) Under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) the Central Committee, is responsible for sanctioning specific work projects which have to be prepared and sent by the State/Union Territory Governments. The Central Committee has met almost regularly every month between November, 1983 to January, 1985 in order to consider RLEGP projects. It is only when a project proposal is either incomplete or not properly formulated according to the instructions that the State/ Union Territory Governments have to be requested to provide the necessary information or revise the project. There have been no inordinate delays as will be evident from the fact that even though this programme was launched on 15.8.83 with a Sixth Five Year Plan allocation of Rs. 600 crores, projects involving an estimated cost of Rs. 904.37 crores, which were received from the various States, have been sanctioned and are at various stages of implementation.

(b) and (c) The Chief Minister, Gujarat, had requested the Government of India to decentralise the sanctioning power under the RLEGP to the State level. However, the Conference of Chief Secretaries, held on 4th and 5th February, 1985; while generally recommending decentralisation did not make any specific recommendation regarding the RLEGP. As implementation through project formulation has brought about qualitative improvement of works done under RLEGP, no change of procedure is contemplated.

TV net work

669. SHRI VITHAL RAO MADHAV-RAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose to convert low power TV transmitters to high power transmitters;

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

(c) by when whole of the country will be brought under TV network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL); (a) and (b) The approved plan for expansion of TV service includes replacement of existing low power transmitters at 14 places by high power transmitters, for providing wider coverage.

(c) With the completion of VI Plan schemes, TV service is expected to be available to about 70 per cent population of the country. Provision of TV service to remaining areas would depend on availability of resources during future plan periods.

Introduction of modern technology in agriculture

670. *SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAV-RAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce modern technology in agriculture;

(b) if so, what are the details of such proposals during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(c) what plans Government have formulated to boost agricultural production during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI "BUTA SINGH). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are four first-line transfer of technology projects of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research which are devoted to popularizing modern technologies for accelerating agricultural production. These are: (i) National Demonstrations Projects in 48 districts, (ii) Operational Research Projects at 96 centres, (iii) 87 Krishi Vigyan Kendras and (iv) the Lab-to-Land Programme in 115 centres.

During the Vth Five Year Plan, it has been proposed to launch National Demonstration Project in 100 districts; enlarge Operational Research Projects to

cover more problem areas; cover all the districts in the country by atleast one Krishi Vigyan Kendra; and enlarge the Lab-to-Land Programme to cover seventy five thousand to one lakh small and marginal farmers and landless labourers.

(c) Besides the first-line transfer of technology projects referred to above, the Training and Visit System of extension has been launched by the Government of India for strengthening extension system for "rapid transfer of technology and increasing food production. Steps are being taken to train the extension functionaries as well as the farmers in modern technologies, to strengthen linkages between research and extension systems; provide farm-advisory services and guidance to the farmers; and support the farmers by timely supply of necessary agricultural inputs.

Low power transmitters

671. SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state.-

(a) the number of low-power television transmitters set up in the country in 1984; and

(b) the number amongst these which are currently functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL); (a) 116 low power TV transmitters were set up in the country during 1984,

(b) Out of these, 115 low power TV transmitters are operating as on date. One low power transmitter at Agra has since been replaced by a high power transmitter.

Amendment of Urban Land Ceiling Act

672. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a strong demand to amend the Urban Land Ceiling Act;