

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) The average number of visuals telecast in the two national news bulletins in Hindi and English during January and February, 1985 is about 12 per day.

(b) Several steps have been taken during 1984 to improve the extent of visual coverages in the national as well as regional TV news bulletins. These include augmentation of electronic news gathering equipment at Kendras, enhanced rates of payment to approved stringers for encouraging them to provide more visual coverages, securing daily satellite feeds of visual coverages of international news events from different sources, utilising the services of Films Division Cameramen, etc. These improvements are a continuous process.

Funds Provided under Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme

1427. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the money under Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme is provided on the basis of number of landless labourers in a State; and

(b) if so, the number of landless labourers in West Bengal and their percentage in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir. The central assistance under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) is allocated on the basis of a fixed formula by giving 75 per cent weightage to the number of agricultural workers and marginal farmers and 25 per cent weightage to the incidence of poverty in the State/Union Territory.

(b) The question does not arise.

Losses of Food Corporation of India

1428. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out annual percentage losses of the Food Corporation of India since its inception and have analysed reasons for increase in losses; and

(b) the steps taken to reduce the losses?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) The Government have been constantly monitoring and reviewing performance of the Food Corporation of India with a view to reducing its transit and storage losses. These losses arise out of various factors such as vagaries of weather, moisture loss, multiple handling at various points, deterioration in quality on account of long storage.

(b) The Food Corporation of India have taken a variety of steps to reduce the incidence of such losses. These steps include weighing and counting of bags at procurement and handling points, installation of weigh-bridges, adoption of strict quality control at purchase points, better preservation and scientific storage, avoidance of movement in open wagons, reducing CAF storage, effective and intensive supervision including surprise checks

World Bank Loan for Improvement of Slums

1429. SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently negotiated with the World Bank for the grant of a loan to be utilised for the slum improvement schemes; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR):

(a) Yes, Sir.