

A.I.R. STATIONS

1126. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government of India to instal Radio Stations in Leh and Haryana; and

(b) if so, by when these Radio Stations will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) By 1972-73.

AD-HOC EMPLOYMENT IN P&T DEPARTMENT

1127. SHRI D. THENGARI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the emoluments of the Sub Post Masters/Branch Post Masters and Delivery Agents in the Sub Post Offices and Branch Post Offices under the Mangwal, Nagrota Surian, Bharmar, Dhamera Post Offices in Kangra District are fixed on an ad-hoc basis and not according to fixed scales of pay;

(b) if so, the actual emoluments per month of those employees and the basis on which they are fixed;

(c) whether the pressure of work in these Branch Post Offices is sufficient to keep them employed on "whole time" when they are paid only for part time work;

(d) whether these emoluments are different in different Branches/Sub-Post Offices, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the amounts of monthly rent paid for the premises of those Sub Post Offices and whether it is a fact that the rent is not paid at all in some cases, and if so, why?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICA-

TIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha

LOSS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION DUE TO LEAF-HOPPER

1128. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any damage has been done during the current crop-year by leaf-hoppers in agricultural production in any of the States in our country;

(b) if so, in what States; and

(c) what are the details of damage and the remedial measures taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASHEB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The epidemic of leaf-hoppers was reported from the following States :—

(i) *Pyrilla on sugarcane*.—Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Maharashtra.

(ii) *Jassids on paddy crop*.—Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) From the reports of the field surveys, it was estimated that leaf-hoppers on sugarcane may cause the reduction of yield of the order of 5-20%. Similarly the loss on account of jassid attack on paddy was estimated to range between 3 and 25 per cent.

Large scale pest control operations were immediately organised in the States. State Governments declared these affected areas as "epidemic" areas by separate notification under the Pest and Diseases Acts of the States. Both ground and aerial operations were organised on a war footing. Pesticides, plant protection equipment and aeroplanes were arranged on priority basis.

Government of India extended the financial assistance to the States under the Calamities Relief Fund to the extent of 50% costs of pesticides as grant and 25% cost of operations on loan basis.