

(c) the number of villagers likely to be benefited by this programme?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Delhi TV Centre is transmitting programmes on agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, etc. for farmers on Wednesdays and Fridays for a duration of 20 minutes as a part of the existing 90-minute daily general service of the Delhi TV Centre. The programmes are being produced in close collaboration with the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and agricultural officers of the Delhi Administration.

(c) TV sets have already been installed in 47 villages within the effective reception range of our Delhi transmitter. More sets will be installed in 34 villages in a short time. It is proposed to organise tele-clubs consisting of 15 to 20 farmers for purposes of discussion and feed-back.

EXCISE DUTY ON NEPA NEWSPRINT

78. SARDAR RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to reduce excise duty on Nepa Newsprint by Rs. 50 per tonne to give relief to small and medium newspapers; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. K. SHAH): (a) and (b) Government have under consideration a proposal for abolition of Rs. 50 per metric tonne as Excise Duty on Nepa Newsprint and Counter-vailing Duty on imported newsprint. Every effort is made to expedite final decision.

FORMER INDIAN AMBASSADOR IN IRAN

79. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Ex-Ambassador of India in Iran has been permitted to become the director of an American Oil Company in Iran;

(b) if so, the circumstances in which such permission was granted?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA): (a) No, Sir, The former Indian Ambassador to Iran has accepted an executive and administrative appointment as Deputy Managing Director in an International Oil Company known as IMINOCO, in which India has a share.

(b) After careful consideration it was decided to permit the officer to accept this appointment for the following reasons: —

(i) As a retired Government servant seeking private employment after more than two years from his retirement, he was not precluded by the rules from accepting this post; and

(ii) because of the Government of India's interest in the company and its financial commitment in its undertakings, it was in India's interest not to object to the officer's accepting the offer.

SECURITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

80. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Pakistan have approached the Government of India for supporting Pakistan's candidature