

(a) the quantity of rice and wheat allotted from Central Government pool to Orissa for distribution through ration shops per year during last three years;

(b) whether Government of Orissa have approached the Central Government for additional quantity for distribution in the rural areas; and

(c) if so, whether Centre proposes to

allot the required quantity, considering the deficiency which the State Government are facing ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The Government of Orissa were allotted the following quantities of rice and wheat for public distribution system during the last 3 years :

(In '000 tonnes)

Year	Quantities allotted	
	Rice	Wheat
1982	70.0	90.0
1983	190.0	225.0
1984	75.0	221.0

(b) No, Sir; no specific request for additional quantities for rural areas has been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Increase in Advertisement Rates

3916. SHRI R. M. BHOYE :
SHRI N. DENNIS :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure adopted regarding the increase in the advertisement rates;

(b) whether Government propose any further increase in advertisement rates; and

(c) if so, to what extent and when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) The advertisement rates are fixed as per the criteria laid down in the Rate Structure, in force, which is primarily based on the cost of production of newspapers/periodicals. Following a general rise in the cost of production, particularly newsprint and wages, an increase of 20% was allowed from October 1, 1981.

(b) and (c). There are demands for further increase in the advertisement rates. However, no decision has so far been taken in this regard.

T. V. Service through INSAT in Rural Areas of Orissa

3917. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of STATE for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the plan regarding the T V service through INSAT for rural areas in Orissa;

(b) to what extent its service is being utilised in the areas covered, particularly rural areas under the scheme of Central Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) The VI Plan scheme for TV utilisation of INSAT in the State of Orissa comprised augmentation of facilities at Upagrah Door-darshan Kendra, Cuttack and provision of 400 direct reception community viewing TV sets at selected electrified villages in the districts of Bolangir and Dhenkanal. The

purpose of the scheme is to make available educational TV programmes for primary school children and area-specific programmes for rural viewers through the community viewing mode.

(b) Educational TV programmes and area-specific programmes are being telecast as envisaged in the scheme. For community viewing, 386 direct reception sets have been installed in the selected districts of Bolangir and Dhenkanal. These are in addition to the 279 VHF community viewing TV sets already operating in Sambalpur district. Action is also on hand to repair some of the direct reception sets which developed faults after installation. To make these programmes available to a wider viewer-ship, the 10 KW TV transmitter, Cuttack as well as the Low Power Transmitters elsewhere in Orissa also relay the programmes.

Seminar on Metropolitan Transport

3918. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Seminar on Metropolitan Transport has recommended a funding platform with the participation of Central, State and local authorities to finance the metropolitan transport in the country;

(b) if so, whether this seminar was organised by the Times Research Foundation in which representatives from eight Union Ministries and almost all the State Government transport departments were the participants;

(c) if so, the decisions taken at the Seminar and whether Government have examined those decisions; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to implement them ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :
(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Various decisions taken at the Seminar are under examination by the Government.

Shortage of Fertilisers in Bihar

3919. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the last six months, especially in the last kharif season, there was a great shortage of fertilisers in almost all parts of the country, particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details of the shortage, State-wise and reasons thereof;

(c) the concrete steps Government propose to take to get over the fertiliser shortage in the country, particularly in Bihar ;

(d) whether Government have any proposal to open a fertiliser factory in Bihar for removing the shortage of fertilisers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The supply position of fertilisers during the last Kharif season as also the last six months has, by and large, been satisfactory. However, pockets of availability stress in brief spells especially during Rabi, 84-85, were reported mainly from Bihar, due to movement and production constraints. The Government of India took immediate action to rush adequate quantities of fertilisers to Bihar as a result of which the State recorded consumption level as agreed to during the zonal Conference held before the last Rabi Season.

(c) Adequate levels of imports and pre-positioning of stocks of fertilisers in advance of the season have been planned to mitigate against shortages. In the case of Bihar, in addition to these steps, allocations have been increased by about 70 per cent for the current kharif, 1985 season over the consumption level of the last kharif, in addition to routing the supplies through dependable sources.

(d) There is no proposal at present to open a fertiliser factory in Bihar.

(e) Does not arise.