

(d) whether a single radio can receive the broadcast of F.M. and traditional transmitter; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) and (b). Twenty Six local radio stations are at present in operation in the country. Out of these, 21 radio stations are based on Frequency Modulation (FM) Technology and remaining 5 radio stations on Amplitude Modulation (AM) Technology.

(c) Yes, Sir. A Frequency Modulation System necessary for FM transmission.

(d) A Single radio receiving set with FM/AM bands is capable of receiving transmission from both FM and traditional Transmitters.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Role of Public Distribution System.

6585. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the PRIME MINISTER discussed the role of public Distribution System with the State Minister for Civil Supplies and public Distribution at his recent meeting held by him with them during the last month;

(b) If so, the details of deliberations; and

(c) The steps being taken to streamline the public Distribution System as a mechanism for helping the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. It was generally agreed to reorient the focus of the Public Distribution System (PDS) to concentration areas inhabited by larger number of the poor like areas under Integrated Tribal Development Projects; Drought prone Area programme; Desert Development programme and Tribal Majority States. The Strategy would be to ensure an effective reach of PDS commodities to consumers in these areas, through the increase of Fair Price shop outlets, coverage of population by ration cards and strengthening of other infrastructure.

States were also requested to improve reach to the vulnerable population living in urban unorganised housing.

Meeting of Advisory Council on PDS

6586. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Advisory Council on the Public Distribution System was held in August, 1991; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken therein and the stage of their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. It was generally agreed to reorient the focus of the Public Distribution System (PDS) to concentrate on areas inhabited by larger numbers of poor, like areas under Integrated Tribal Development Projects; Draught Prone Areas Programmers; Desert Development Programme and Tribal Majority States. The Strategy would be to ensure an effective reach of PDS commodities to consumers in these areas, through the increase Fair Price Shop outlets, coverage of population by ration