

**Setting up of T.V. Relay Centre
at Nalgonda**

2111. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a consistent demand of the people of Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh to set up a T.V. relay centre in that District;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to set up a T.V. relay centre therein ;

(c) if so, the time by which the T.V. relay centre will start functioning ; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) Requests have been received from time to time for providing TV service to Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) to (d). More than half the area of Nalgonda District gets TV coverage from the high power transmitter at Hyderabad. Further improvement in TV coverage of Nalgonda district is expected when the transmitter at Vijayawada is commissioned on full-power of 10 KW during 1985-86.

Fast food Projects

2112. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether fast food projects have gained ascendancy over agriculture in Government's new thinking (Telegraph dated 26-2-85) ;

(b) whether in the process traditional foods are fast disappearing causing

serious health hazards, specially for the poor ;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fate of some developing countries such as Korea arising from fast foods syndrome leading to set back to rice consumption and imports of wheat from USA ; and

(d) if so, corrective steps proposed by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d). Let alone the displacement of traditional foods by fast foods, fast foods are by and large unknown to the overwhelming majority of the consumers living outside the metropolitan cities of the country. No health hazard or setback to agriculture is envisaged on this account.

Export of Surplus Wheat

2113. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to export surplus wheat and if so, details thereof ;

(b) whether the surplus is due to poor purchasing power of the poor and the needy and not due to real surplus ;

(c) whether Government will ensure that the employment opportunities are created to ensure feeding of the poor ; and

(d) whether Government propose to import wheat ; rice as in the past on the fall in production due to natural reasons ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). It has been decided to supply one lakh tonnes of wheat as aid to some of the drought affected African countries.

In the current Indo-Soviet Trade Protocol (Jan.-Dec., 1985), a provision has been made for export of five lakh tonnes of wheat to USSR.

There is comfortable position in respect of wheat stocks in the country and easy availability in the open market.

The Government keeps the option to export wheat from the country, if necessary and feasible.

(c) The Government have launched the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) with the objective of providing supplementary employment opportunities in rural areas and improving and expanding employment opportunities for the rural landless.

(d) There is no proposal to import any wheat or rice at present.

[*Translation*]

Implementation of Schemes for Providing Houses for Poor People

2114. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the question of implementing more effectively schemes to provide houses to backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in rural areas so that poor persons belonging to these categories are provided with more houses; and

(b) if so, the details ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): (a) and (b) Housing, being a State Subject, all the Social Housing Schemes are being implemented by the State Governments/U.Ts. They are free to formulate and implement Schemes for different categories/areas.

[*English*]

Interest on Housing Loans

2115 SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Central Government to reduce the interest on housing loans from Banks and other financial institutions; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to implement any special scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): (a) and (b). A proposal recently made will require examination in all its aspects.

Functioning of AIR Station at Port Blair

2116. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the present station of A.I.R., Port Blair is not fully audible within the Union Territory of A & N Islands; if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to set a higher-power transmitter to cater to the needs of all the islands during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. The AIR Station at Port Blair is equipped with 20 kw mw transmitter. The transmissions do not cover all the islands in the A & N Islands group. To improve the situation, the installation of a directional antenna on a separate mast has been planned. The work on the second mast is in progress.

(b) and (c). There are no approved proposals for a high power transmitter for the A & N Islands.