

Special Status of Immunity to ICRISAT

384. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN :

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :

SHRI AMAL DATTA :

SHRI R.P. DASS :

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(i) whether the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, which employs several foreigners was given a status of 'United Nations' which confers a special status of immunity ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether following the unearthing of espionage network in the country, Government have considered the desirability of reviewing the policy with regard to the status of the scientific agencies particularly in the sensitive areas with a view to checking spying activities under the cover of research and collaboration; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Certain limited privileges and immunities have been accorded to the ICRISAT under para 3 of the United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947. The privileges and immunities accorded to ICRISAT are in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement of March, 1972 between the Government of India and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, for the establishment of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

(c) and (d) Government is fully conscious of the security of scientific agencies located in sensitive areas.

Television Coverage in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri Districts of Maharashtra

385. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a persistent and a strong demand for providing adequate facilities to Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts of Maharashtra to ensure proper reception of television programmes ;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to ensure television coverage in Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri ; and

(c) the time by which the television facilities will be made available in these districts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) :

(a) Demands for providing TV service to Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri districts have been received.

(b) and (c) Sindhudurg district is expected to get coverage when TV transmitter at Ranaji is commissioned on full power of 10 KW during 1985-86. Extension of TV service to uncovered areas of the country, including Ratnagiri district depends on availability of resources for future expansion of the TV network.

International Decade for Water Supply and Sanitation

386. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the main programmes undertaken by Government under the International Decade for water supply and sanitation generally or specifically for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) the achievements, shortfalls and expenditure, State-wise in respect of the above ; and

(c) the steps envisaged to overcome the shortfalls and weaknesses relating to the States significantly lagging behind in respect of both water supply and sanitation ?