

(a) the total population covered by TV in Kerala;

(b) the area that are not covered by the existing transmission Centres; and

(c) the plans being chalked out to put these areas too on the TV coverage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b) At present 25% population of Kerala is covered by TV service. On commissioning of the high power (10 KW) transmitter and Cochip and augmentation of the power of transmitter at Trivandrum to 10 KW, about 71% population of Kerala excluding that in Wayanad district is expected to be covered.

(c) There is no approved scheme to further extend the coverage.

Cyclone in Nellore District of Andhra Pradesh

375. SHRI N.R. VENKATARATNAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) extent of damage suffered by Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh in the recent cyclone as estimated by the A.P. Government and the Central Team sent by Union Government; and

(b) amount requested by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the amount sanctioned by the Central Government and the rationale adopted in granting less amount ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) According to the Government of Andhra Pradesh the extent of damage in the district of Nellore due to cyclone that occurred in November, 1984, is as follows :

i) No. of villages affected 811

ii) Population affected	12 58 lakhs
iii) Cropped area affected	1.49 lakh ha.
iv) Area sand cast	2,200 ha.
v) No. of houses/huts damaged	2.50 lakh
vi) No. of lives lost	578
vii) No. of cattle head lost	18389
viii) Estimated value of damages to public property.	Rs 46 47 crores

(b) The State Government requested Central assistance of Rs. 114.86 crores for relief rehabilitation, repairs and restoration of public utilities and cyclone preparedness. They also asked for a loan of Rs. 1 crore for assistance to APCOB for additional credit limit. The above amounts are meant for not only Nellore but also for the districts of Chittoor, Prakasam and Cuddapah. The Central Team visited the State and had detailed discussions with the State Government officials and had also on the spot inspections of some affected areas. On the basis of the recommendations of the Central Team and also Inter-ministerial High Level Committee on Relief, a ceiling of Central Assistance of Rs. 37.8 crores and the actual expenditure on Army assistance was sanctioned to the State Government for relief measures in these districts. The recommendations of the Central Team and the High Level Committee are on the basis of the existing norms. It is for the State Government to allocate the assistance amongst the affected districts.

Fixation of Price of Agricultural Products to Control Price Index

376 SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cost of agricultural produce constitute a major factor for determining the price index ;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to maintain the prices of agricultural produce so that the price level does not shoot high thereby adversely affecting the agriculturist; and

(c) whether in achieving the above objective, Government would ensure that the economic interests and welfare of the agriculturist are not sacrificed ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) The value of marketable surplus of agricultural produce constitutes the basis for constructing the weighting diagram of Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices (Base 1970-71=100).

(b) and (c) While fixing the support prices of agricultural commodities, Government takes into consideration several factors including the interests of producers and consumers. The issue prices of cereals supplied through public distribution system are subsidised by the Government in the interest of the consumers. Further, to keep the prices under check steps are taken to increase production, maintain buffer stocks of foodgrains and arrange imports and restrict exports when required, to augment domestic availability.

Production of Foodgrains in 1984

377. **SHRI G.G. SWELL :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of foodgrains production during the year 1984 in the country ;

(b) the total cultivated area ;

(c) how does it compare with the Chinese production of last year and the total Chinese land under cultivation ; and

(d) whether government have made a study in regard to the difference and come to same conclusions ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c) A statement giving area and production of foodgrains in India during 1983-84 and in China during 1983 (latest available from FAO Production Year Book in the case of latter) is given below :-

Area—Million hectares

Production—Million tonnes

Crop	India (1983-84)		China (1983)*	
	Cropped Area	Production	Cropped Area	Production
Cereals	106.94	138.89	94.54	343.73
Pluses	23.41	12.65	4.88	6.04
Foodgrains	130.35	151.54	99.42	349.77

*FAO estimate

In case of China, cereals include paddy (unhusked). In the Indian Official statistics given above cereals include paddy in terms of cleaned rice (excluding husk)

(d) According to an assessment made by ICAR, it is observed that productivity

in China is more than that in India due to :

i) more irrigated area

ii) intensive agricultural practices

iii) application of integrated pest management