

(c) the further steps, if any being taken to streamline the working of this system in the various States particularly in the rural and backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Sixth meeting of the Advisory Council on Public Distribution System was held in New Delhi on 29 March, 1985.

(b) and (c). At this meeting various issues connected with the efficient functioning of the public distribution system were discussed. They included opening of new fair price shops, commodity coverage, formation of advisory/vigilance committees, strengthening of infrastructure for the PDS, streamlining the PDS in States/Union Territories, steps for eliminating shortage of essential commodities, setting up of grievance cells at State/District level etc. It was reiterated that States should strengthen the PDS at grass root level and for this purpose develop a monitoring system to ensure timely availability of essential commodities through the fair price shops. It was emphasised that consumers in rural, hilly, backward and tribal areas should not experience any difficulty in getting essential commodities from the fair price shops.

Upgradation of TV Transmission Station at Mysore

3969. **SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade TV transmission Station at Mysore to enable neighbouring districts of Mandya, Madikeri, Hassan and other distant parts of Mysore District to receive T. V. signals; and

(b) if so, the likely date by which the work will be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b). There is no approved scheme, as yet to upgrade the existing TV transmitter at Mysore.

TV Transmission Station in Chamundi Hills in Mysore

3970. **SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR :** Will the

Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had proposed to erect the T. V. transmitter station in Mysore on Chamundi Hills and subsequently changed the venue; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b). The site initially identified for installation of a Low Power Transmitter at Mysore was in private premises at Chamundi Hills. This did not become available in time for completion of the project. The transmitter was, therefore, installed at the site readily available in the AIR complex.

Drought in Orissa

3971. **SHRI K PRADHANI :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allocated to Orissa for implementing Drought Prone Area Programme in 1985-86;

(b) the different areas included under DPAP in Orissa;

(c) whether Government are aware that many more areas in Orissa are affected by drought this year;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to provide additional allocation to Orissa to mitigate hardship caused due to drought conditions; and

(e) if so, the details of additional grant proposed to be provided to Orissa for the above purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) A total allocation of Rs. 4.68 crores (including State share) has been made for Orissa for 1985-86 for implementing the Drought Prone Areas Programme.

(b) 39 blocks in 4 districts of the State are covered by the Drought Prone Areas Programme. The names of the districts and blocks are as under :

S. So.	District	Blocks
1.	Phulbani	Harbhanga, Balliguda, Chakapad, Daringibadi, G. Udayagiri, Kantamal, Khajuripada, Kotagarh, Nuagaon, Phiringia, Phulbani, Raikia, Tikaballi, Tumudibandh.
2.	Kalahandi	Kesinga, Narla, M. Rampur, Thunamul Rampur, Lanjigarh, Golamunda, Sinapali, Khariar, Komna, Boden, Nawapara.
3.	Bolangir	Patnagarh, Belpara, Khaprakhol, Titilagarh, Tureikella, Bangamunda, Muribahal, Sainatala.
4.	Sambalpur	Padampur, Paikmal, Bijepur, Sohella, Gaisilet, Jharabandha.

(c) Yes, Sir. All the 13 districts in the State were reported to have been affected by drought during 1984-85.

(d) and (e). Basing on the recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief, Central assistance of Rs. 8.95 crores (including Rs. 6.00 crores for 1985-86) has been sanctioned to the State for drought relief during the year 1984-85.

Impact of Budget on price of foodgrains and Pulses

3972. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state ;

(a) whether divergent trends were witnessed in the grains and pulses markets in the country after the presentation of the 1985-86 Budget by Government of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

(c) the present position and the trend of prices in the grains and pulses markets; and

(d) to what extent the price in the grains and pulses market have increased/fallen after the presentation of the Budget and what are the reasons for such increase/fall in the prices ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d). It is a fact that there has been a divergent trend in the wholesale price indices of cereals and pulses in the two weeks after the presentation of 1985-86 Budget by Government of India. The wholesale price index numbers of cereals and pulses for the three weeks ending 30.3.1985 are indicated in the attached statement alongwith percentage variation in the post-Budget period. The variation in the prices of cereals and pulses during the period under reference may be mainly attributed to the seasonality factor.

Statement

Wholesale Price Index of Cereals and pulses.

(1970-71—100)

1	Week-ending			5 percentage variation (30.3.85)/(16.3.85)
	2 16.3.85	3 23.3.85	4 30.3.85	
Cereals	242.8	243.3	245.0	+0.9
Rice	266.5	267.3	270.1	+1.4
Wheat	211.6	212.5	213.4	+0.4