

(d) if so, the reasons for the same and steps proposed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) There is neither frustration amongst the agro scientists of the ICAR nor do anomalies exist in their promotion policies. The promotions are given on the basis of 5 yearly assessment of the performance of scientists irrespective of the degrees possessed by them.

(b) The judgement pronounced by the Supreme Court in December, 1983 relates to 3-4 cases which occurred in the years 1972-74. Thus, the observations made therein by the Hon. Court reflect on the position obtaining in the Council at that time and not on the present state of affairs or functioning of the ICAR.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Improving the Working of FCI

4658. **SHRI R.P. GAEKWAD :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to lay a statement showing :

(a) the details of operational cost of the FCI during the last three years, year-wise.

(b) whether there is any proposal to progressively reduce the Central subsidy by improving the working of the FCI ; and

(c) if so the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) The details of operational cost consisting of movement, storage and distribution of the Food Corporation of India during the last three years, year-wise are as under :

	Rate Rs. per quintal		
	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84*
1. Transit and storage shortages	6.89	8.16	—
2. Freight	13.92	17.08	16.83
3. Handling godown expenses	3.33	3.62	3.71
4. Godown charges	3.28	3.08	3.06
5. Interest	7.96	9.08	12.95
6. Administrative over-heads	2.49	2.89	2.80
Total :	37.87	43.91	39.35

*(Excluding transit and storage losses)

(b) and (c) The working of the Food Corporation of India is reviewed from time to time and efforts are made to ensure that subsidy is kept at the minimum level.

Extension of Advisory Service for Pepper Growers

4659. **PROF. P.J. KURIEN :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for extension of advisory service for the pepper growers ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) There is separate programme for extension of advisory service for Pepper. However, the State Departments of Agriculture/Horticulture provide necessary advice on Pepper cultivation for increasing production and productivity. Quality planting material of improved varieties including hybrid pepper is also supplied.

Suggestions for amending Essential Commodities Act

4660. **SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received

a letter dated 22 January, 1985 addressed to the Prime Minister from the Federation of All India Foodgrains Dealers Association, Delhi proposing amendments to certain sections of the Essential Commodities Act :

(b) if so, the action taken on these proposals ;

(c) when Government are likely to bring legislation incorporating these amendments ; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) For ensuring equitable distribution and availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices to the common mass of people, the Government of India considers it necessary to keep various provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in their present form.

[Translation]

Opening of Community TV Centres

4661. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of community television centres functioning in Bihar at present ; and

(b) the number of new centres planned to be opened in that State during 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) At present there are 247 VHF community viewing TV sets in the coverage zone of the TV transmitter at Muzaffarpur in Bihar.

(b) Deployment of 300 direct reception TV sets and 400 VHF TV sets for community viewing in the selected villages of three districts of Palamau, Singhbhum and Ranchi in Bihar is an approved scheme and action is in hand for its implementation during 1985.

[English]

Construction of Five Star Hotels in Delhi

4662. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether crores of rupees have been expended for the construction of Five-star hotels in Delhi, neglecting the rest of country, specially the rural sector ; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to maintain the uniformity for the entire rural sector in getting the cement and other building material including easy credit for development of the housing schemes and other essential construction works for the community ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Construction of hotels including Five-star hotels is mainly undertaken by private entrepreneurs. The building material for the purpose is obtained by the promoters subject to laid down procedure.

(b) Some of the important measures taken in this regard are as follows :—

- (1) steps to increase the production of construction materials such as cement, steel etc. The Government are following a liberal policy towards granting of industrial licences for setting up cement factories.
- (2) Introduction of the scheme of partial decontrol of cement with effect from 28-2-82 and making available levy cement for construction of houses upto a limited plinth area ;
- (3) encouraging the use of locally available materials ; and
- (4) provision of financial assistance under the Scheme of allotment of House-sites-cum-construction assistance to landless workers in rural areas.

Import of MOP from Manitoba in Canada

4663. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :