

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 :