

boats, is under consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

**Multi-Lingual National News Agency**

64. DR. A.K. PATEL :  
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3815 on 19 August, 1985 regarding multi-lingual national news agency and state :

(a) reaction of Government on the recommendations of Goenka Committee on merger of Indian Languages service with existing news agencies and the details of steps being taken in this regard; and

(b) the policy of Government and the measures proposed to be taken to ensure that all journalists and employees working in the news agencies of Indian languages are absorbed in corresponding posts ?

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

(a) The Government's reaction is favourable.

(b) The Government will help to the extent possible the absorption of these employees in sister organisations.

**Implementation of Desert Development Programme**

65. DR. A.K. PATEL :  
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had started the Desert Development Programme during 1977-78 in accordance with the recommendations of the National Commission on Agriculture;

(b) if so, the details of upto-date achievements of this programme;

(c) whether resources position has deteriorated in desert areas and if so, how and to what extent indicating the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the above programme is being reviewed and reformulated, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A large number of Scheme relating to Sand Dune Stabilisation, Shelter belt plantation, Afforestation, Minor Irrigation, Soil Conservation, Live-Stock Development, Dry Land Farming Demonstration, etc. have been implemented in areas covered under the Programme. A total expenditure of about Rs. 73.55 crores was incurred on Desert Development Programme during the Sixth Five Year Plan alone. As for physical achievements during Sixth Five Year Plan, 53867 hectares were covered under plantation; about 12086 hectares of Sand Dunes were stabilised; 32611 running kilometers of shelter belt plantations were raised; irrigation potential of 7880 hectares was created; soil survey was undertaken over 82528 hectares; 161 veterinary dispensaries and 24 wool extension centres were established, and wage employment of about 8.8 million mandays was generated.

(c) and (d) The Desert Development Programme is being financed with available resources at present. A more favourable funding pattern for this programme is contemplated in the Seventh Plan.

**Surplus Land in the Country**

66. DR. A.K. PATEL :  
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the area of surplus land in acres which have come under the possession of

various States and Union territories under Urban Land Ceiling Act;

(b) the area of land out of that on which houses have been constructed by Government and the policy in regard to the remaining land; and

(c) whether, keeping in view the housing problem of urban poor people, Government have under consideration any package deal and if so, how this surplus land is proposed to be managed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) According to the information received so far, 7964.20 acres of surplus land has come under the possession of various States and Union territories.

(b) and (c) 620.75 acres. As per the existing guidelines the State Governments are to utilise the land acquired under the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act 1976 for construction purposes or otherwise duly keeping in view the land use of the area envisaged in the Master Plans of the Urban agglomeration in which such lands fall.

[English]

**Delay in delivery of ration items to F.P.S. in Delhi**

67. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi fair price shopkeepers deposit huge amount to get the delivery of wheat, rice, sugar etc. and sometimes wait for weeks together for the supply as a result of which the consumers suffer and cannot get the ration in time; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to fix some time limit so that supply of such products can be made in time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) For the convenience of the

Fair Price Shops in Delhi, the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation has taken the responsibility for collecting stocks of Wheat, Rice, Sugar etc. from the godowns of the Food Corporation of India and to reach them to the doorsteps of the Fair Price Shops. For this purpose, the delivery schedules are so drawn up that supplies for the first fortnight of the month are reached to the Fair Price Shops on the last day of the previous month and those for the second fortnight of the month on the 15th of the month. The Fair Price Shop owners deposit Bank Draft with the Delhi State Civil Supplies Corporation on the 23rd for deliveries to be made by the 30th and on the 8th for the deliveries to be made on the 15th. It is, therefore, not correct to say that the shopkeepers deposit huge amounts and wait for weeks together for supplies.

**Rice Mills in Cooperative Sector in Orissa**

68. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of rice mills in Co-operative sector in Orissa;

(b) the Central assistance given for the establishment of rice mills in Orissa;

(c) the quantity of paddy processed by rice mills in cooperative sector in Orissa in the year 1984-85; and

(d) whether the cooperative rice mills are running at a profit or loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Sixty-nine.

(b) (i) Central Aided  
Plan Scheme: ... Rs. 3.740 lakhs

(ii) Central Sector  
Scheme : ... Rs. 72.586 lakhs

(c) The information is being collected.

(d) Based on the working reports received, the majority of the reporting