

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b). It has not been possible to announce Newsprint Allocation Policy for the year 1985-86 as the Government are trying to evolve a policy that will eliminate some of the existing lacunae. However, newspapers have been authorised to draw newsprint to the extent of their entitlement for the year 1984-85 and suitable growth margin is also being allowed.

Working and living conditions of fishermen and handloom weavers

1167. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tripartite Study Groups constituted to make an indepth study into the working and living conditions of fishermen and handloom weavers, have made their recommendations; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring suitable legislative as well as administrative measures for the welfare of fishermen and handloom weavers in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Tripartite Study Groups, constituted to study the working and living conditions of fishermen and Handloom and Powerloom workers have not yet submitted their Reports.

(b) Does not arise.

Amount allotted for rural housing

1168. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount allotted for housing for persons belonging to backward classes and economically weaker sections during the last two years; and

(b) the present position of rural housing projects for backward classes ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Housing being a state subject, all social housing schemes are implemented by the State Governments. The Union Government provides financial assistance in the shape of block loans and block grants without tying them to any particular scheme. The State Governments are free to formulate and implement schemes for different categories of people including SC/ST and backward classes. However, a component of housing for SC/ST and freed bonded labour has been included under Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) with effect from the year 1985-86. An amount of Rs. 100 crores was allotted for this purpose in the current year. Against this, projects at the estimated cost of Rs. 147.05 crores for construction of 148916 units of houses have been approved for States and Union Territories. Four projects of the value of Rs. 2716 crores for 32,290 units of housing have been approved against the normal allocation under RLEGP so far.

Telecast of sports programme

1169. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether several important programmes specially on sports are put only on TV but not on AIR;

(b) whether such programmes will also be put on AIR; and

(c) whether a close coordination and commonness of purpose will be ensured on TV/AIR ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. All India Radio also puts out programmes on sports besides providing direct coverage to important sporting events keeping in view the popularity of the game, listener's interest, status of the event, technical feasibility, other programme commitments, etc.

(c) Although the programme activities of AIR and Doordarshan are different as also the particular requirement of coverage of a sports event, coordination between the two Medias is maintained.