

(d) whether the suggestions have been accepted by Govt. and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. A three day National Colloquium on 'Television-Today and Tomorrow' was held at Delhi from March 22, 1986 under the aegis of NAMEDIA Foundation. A cross-section of people, interested and involved in media activities (including some Journalists) were invited to participate in its deliberations.

(b) According to reports, a free and frank discussion was held on various aspects of Doordarshan's working, programmes, activities, constraints and impediments, etc.

(c) No specific suggestions of the National Colloquium have so far been received by the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Payment of Crop Insurance Claims

7258. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :

SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that fresh finance is being issued to farmers from 1 April, 1986 ;

(b) if so, whether the non-payment of claims by General Insurance Company will cause the farmers hardships for borrowing fresh loans for their ensuring crop production ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps proposed to expedite the payment of claims to farmers by General Insurance Company ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c). In certain States like Gujarat, substantial claims were made and these have been investigated. The claims have not been settled. In response to a request from Gujarat State Cooperative Bank, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has already advised it to grant extension of the due date of repayment in such areas. This was done to help settlement of claims by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and completion of formalities for conversion of the balance amount of loans. In the process, the affected farmers would be eligible for fresh finance.

(d) General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) has already settled claims of farmers in six States ; and has initiated steps for settling the pending claims expeditiously.

Improvement in Agriculture Sector

7259. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) the measures Union Government propose to take to improve India's ranking in the agriculture sector in view of the fact that agriculture accounts for 40 per cent of the national income of the country and 75 per cent of the people eke out their living from agriculture only ; and

(b) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). In order to improve India's ranking in the agricultural sector, the following measures are being taken :

(i) Maximisation of productivity in irrigated areas ;

(ii) Timely, easy and adequate supply of agricultural inputs like technology, seeds fertilisers, implements, plant protection chemicals, credit, etc. ;

(iii) Increasing the area under High Yielding Varieties Programme ;

(iv) Greater attention to dryland farming through watershed manage-

ment, use of seed-cum-fertiliser drill, increased use of fertiliser-drill, increased use of fertiliser and seeds of short duration varieties and cultivation of coarse grains pulses and oilseeds ;

- (v) Production of sufficient seeds of different classes namely, breeder seed, foundation seed and certified seed so as to cover targetted area under High Yielding Varieties Programme ;
- (vi) Adoption of area approach in potential districts for increasing the production of various crops ;
- (vii) Adoption of integrated plant protection measures ;
- (viii) Increasing cropping intensity through double, multiple cropping and adoption of inter-cropping ;
- (ix) 'Assuring remunerative prices for various crops to the farmers and their announcement before the sowing season and also organising support for purchase of commodities at these prices ; and
- (x) Intensification of research efforts so as to extend the benefits of new technology to more farmers, cropping systems and regions.

Broadcasting Station at Cochin

7260. SHRI T. BASHIR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Broadcasting Station at Cochin in the near future ;

(b) if so, whether any land has been acquired therefor ;

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be acquired ; and

(d) the time by which the station is expected to go on air ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. It will be a F.M. Station with 2/3 KW Transmitters.

(b) and (c). Land has not yet been acquired. However, site has been identified and request ??? placed before the State Government for early transfer of the site to AIR.

(d) The AIR station at Cochin is expected to be ready during the last year of the 7th Plan.

Construction of Houses by House Building Cooperative Societies in Delhi

7261. SHRI T. BASHEER :
SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of House {Building Cooperative Societies in Delhi with their date of registration ;

(b) how many of them are Group Housing Cooperatives ;

(c) the number of Societies under each category which have since constructed the houses ;

(d) the names of the societies that have not built Houses, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken or contemplated by Union Government to see that those societies achieve their object without further delay ; and

(e) whether Government would ask the Registrar to look into the affairs of all such delinquent societies and move for the appointment of an Administrator in exercise of the powers conferred under the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Steps Contemplated by NFL to increase Fertilizer Production

7262. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :