

(d) No, Sir. The Sorghum Improvement programme in India is one of the best programmes and quite a good varieties/hybrids have been developed under this Project. The Sorghum hybrids released in India are also quite popular in other countries.

Imbalances in cropping patterns

8055. SHRI D.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Economic Survey (1984-85) indicates serious imbalance in cropping pattern in States;

(b) if so, whether in the light of this minimum prices will be fixed for various crops in different States to encourage production on scientific basis; and

(c) what action is proposed to overcome the various distortions and to reduce defective cropping patterns, area-wise in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No Sir. However, the Economic Survey (1985-86) has indicated that imbalances have begun to emerge in cropping patterns largely as a result of technological improvements in certain crops, the expansion of irrigated area and the effective intervention of the Government to support wheat and rice prices.

(b) Government of India fixes support/procurement prices for different crops on the basis of recommendations made by the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in consultation with the concerned Central Ministries and the Planning Commission. While recommending support/procurement prices, the CACP keeps in view inter-alia the need to provide incentive to the producers for adopting improved technology and for maximising production. It also takes into account the cost of cultivation/production of concerned commodities in various States along with a comprehensive over-view

of the entire structure of the economy for balanced agricultural growth.

(c) A high level Expert Group appointed by the Government of India is currently examining in depth the question of developing optimal cropping patterns in different agroclimatic regions of the country, keeping in view all relevant factors. It is also proposed to evolve a long term agricultural price policy to facilitate correcting any imbalances which might develop in cropping patterns.

TV population to be covered in Andhra Pradesh

8056. SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether 80 per cent of the population is proposed to be covered by Television by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) whether it would cover only 65.7 per cent population of Andhra Pradesh by that time; and

(c) the steps taken by Union Government to make up the deficit in population coverage in Andhra Pradesh.

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

(b) and (c). No, Sir. With the implementation of Schemes included in the VII Plan of Doordarshan, TV service in Andhra Pradesh is expected to become available to about 83 per cent of the State's population.

Production of HYV rice

8057. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the area covered by high yielding varieties of rice and the average annual production per hectare during 1983, 1984 and 1985 respectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : The area covered under High Yielding Varieties of Rice and average per hectare production of rice including local varieties during 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 are given below :

	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85 (Prov)
HYV coverage (lakh ha)	188.4	217.4	227.8
Average productivity of Rice (Kg/ha)	1231	1457	1425

Food production targets by 2000 A.D.

8058. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the food production targets Government have set for the country be achieved by the year 2000 AD; and

(b) the special steps Government are taking to achieve the target ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The foodgrain requirement by the year 2000 AD has been estimated at 235-240 million tonnes in the Seventh Plan Document. Details of Plan-wise targets will be worked out during the subsequent Plans.

(b) The broad strategy of development outlined in the above Plan Document for the years 1985-2000 include increased use of fertilizers in irrigated areas and to intensify research on dryland farming, to accelerate the transfer of new technologies from the laboratory to the farm and to channelise more credit into, and develop marketing facilities in, dry-farming areas so as to assist in the speedy application of new technologies.

Setting up of occupational health clinic to diagnose occupational diseases during Seventh Plan

8059. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up an occupational health clinic to diagnose occupational diseases and also to identify causes and to suggest appropriate medical care; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the occupational disease areas have been chosen for this purpose during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) A proposal for setting up four Zonal Centres under the ESI Scheme for detection and treatment of occupational diseases is under consideration of the ESI Corporation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

IEENS Representation on future prospect of Newspaper

8060. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that I.E.N.S. has given a representation to the Ministry concerning the future prospect of the newspapers and their free role;

(b) if so, the main points of the representation; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet the demand ?

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