

Discontinuation of Konkani news bulletin by External Services of All India Radio

5692. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK :
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the news-bulletin in Konkani language broadcast by the External Services of All India Radio has been discontinued; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) :
(a) and (b). The Konkani service of All India Radio consisted of only a News Bulletin of a duration of 10 minutes only on a daily basis, which was being directed to East Africa. Only a microscopic minority of Indian community speaking Gujarati or Konkani language now reside in East Africa since a large number of them have moved to the United Kingdom. Keeping in view the Geopolitical situation currently existing between India and East Africa, a decision was taken to extend the Swahili service to that target group who understand that service instead of Konkani.

Child Labour

5693. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 has come into force, if so, from which date;

(b) the provisions of this Act which have not yet come into force;

(c) whether any instructions have been issued to the State Governments since the enforcement of this Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and response of the State Governments thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A.

SANGMA) : (a) Yes Sir; The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, came into force from the 23rd December, 1986.

(b) The provisions of Part-III of the Act have not yet come into force.

(c) and (d). All State Governments and Union Territories have been addressed to enforce strictly the provisions of the Act, and to send an annual return in respect of the number of inspections made under the Act, the number of violations detected, the number of prosecutions launched etc. Since the return is to be sent on an annual basis, the information to be sent by the State Governments will be available in due course.

Agricultural production

5694. DR. V VENKATESH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether agricultural production and productivity is going up in the country, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) whether any new schemes have been introduced and implemented for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Planning Commission's financial allocation for Karnataka during Seventh Five Year Plan in respect of agriculture sector is more vis a-vis Sixth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Agricultural production and productivity has been showing an upward trend in the country. The same is also, by and large, true in case of Karnataka.

(b) and (c). In the recent past, a number of major schemes viz, Assistance to

Small and Marginal Farmers Programme, National Watershed Development Project in Rainfed Agriculture, National Oilseeds Development Project and National Pulses Development Project were introduced for implementation in many States including Karnataka to give a further boost to agricultural production and productivity. Full impact of the same is expected to be reflected in its future development.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) As indicated in the Five Year Plan Documents and other communications from the Planning Commission, financial allocation for Karnataka during the Seventh Plan was Rs. 300.00 crore as against Rs. 194.26 crore during the Sixth Plan.

Seminar on use of plastic in agriculture

5695. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a national seminar on the use of plastics in agriculture was held recently;

(b) if so, the recommendations made at the seminar;

(c) the steps taken to implement the recommendations made therein; and

(d) how far it will be helpful and economical for the farmers ?

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

(b) The main recommendations of the National Seminar are as follows :

1. For adoption of the proven plasticulture technology, State Level Committees on Use of Plastics in Agriculture in collaboration with Agriculture, Horticulture, Irrigation and Forestry Departments should prepare and implement an intensive time-bound action plan for dis-

semination and adoption of plasticulture technology.

2. To ensure availability of plastic material/systems to be plasticulture sector, the present constraints on availability of raw material needed to be eliminated.
3. The Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industry, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and National Committee on Use of Plastics in Agriculture (NCPA) should identify the plasticulture applications which fiscal/duty concessions for facilitating their mass adoption.
4. The Plastic Industry should develop durable plastic films for outdoor applications mainly for Green house, Low tunnels, Cap covers etc.
5. The Agriculture Universities who are assigned the task of setting up of Plasticulture Development Centres should make every effort to generate meaningful results adhering to the time schedule given to them.
6. Doordarshan, the All India Radio and news media should be used to propagate the concept of plasticulture on a regular basis.
7. State Governments should organise Seminars/Workshops jointly with Agriculture Universities to popularise the plastics technology amongst the users.
8. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research would constitute a task force to prepare a curriculum on plasticulture, and request agriculture Universities in the country to include plasticulture as a part of their under graduate programme.
9. State Governments should appoint one Officer at the level of Joint Director in charge of plasticulture activities in the State, if need be,