

make an attempt, whenever possible, to dispel superstitious beliefs prevailing in the minds of the viewers and to promote scientific temper in them. These messages are projected mainly through special audience programmes meant for rural areas, industrial workers and youth.

Payments for DAVP Advertisements to Newspapers

4086. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether small newspapers have complained that payments they receive for DAVP advertisements are often neutralised by peripheral costs like keeping liaison in Delhi, making of blocks etc.;

(b) if so, whether any discussions have been held with them to find out how these costs could be eliminated; and

(c) if so, the outcome of these discussions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. However, Government have decided on its own to enhance the rates of DAVP advertisements by 30 per cent with effect from 1-9-1985.

Strengthening of Programmes of Calcutta TV Centre

4087. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to strengthen Calcutta TV centre so that the programmes broadcast by the Calcutta TV centre may be relayed through all the TV relay centres of West Bengal, Tripura and Bengali speaking areas of Bihar, U. P., Assam and Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) :
(a) and (b) TV transmitter at Asansol relays programmes of Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta through a microwave link between Calcutta and Asansol. Similar link is under implementation between Calcutta and Berhampur (Murshidabad). Provision for extension of this link to Siliguri and setting up of programme production facilities at Siliguri for telecast of Bengali programmes from TV transmitter at Kurseong is included in the VII Plan of Doordarshan. There is no scheme to link Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta to any Centre other than those mentioned above.

Purchase of Paddy by FCI in Madhya Pradesh

4088. SHRI M. L. JHIKRAM : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether paddy is being purchased at the support price by Food Corporation of India in all the districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if not, by what time arrangements for procurements of paddy will be made;

(c) whether the support price fixed for paddy procurement is proper keeping in view the farmer's labour and high costs at present; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) :
(a) and (b) In Madhya Pradesh, the Food Corporation of India have opened 49 purchase centres, in the current season, to undertake support purchase of paddy in areas allotted to them by the State Government. These centres are located in the following districts :

Raipur, Bhopal, Rajgarh, Sihor, Raisen, Vidisha, Guna, Shivpuri, Rewa, Sidhi, Panna, Chhattarpur, Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur and Chhindwara.

(c) and (d) Support prices for paddy are fixed by the Government of India on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and after considering all aspects of the matter.

Minimum Wages for Agricultural Workers

4089. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether minimum wages for agricultural labour is linked to consumer price index in many States:

(b) if not, which are the defaulting States and reasons for this non-linkage; and

(c) what protection is there for agricultural labour in such States against severe erosion of their earnings through inflation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) to (c) The State Governments of Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal and the Chandigarh Administration have linked minimum wages for agricultural workers to the Consumer Price Index Number. The Minimum Wages Act has not yet been extended to the State of Sikkim. In Arunachal Pradesh the minimum wages have been fixed under executive orders only. The Lakshadweep Administration and the Government of Mizoram have not considered it necessary to fix minimum wages for agricultural workers as the number of such workers is very negligible. The remaining State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been fixing all inclusive minimum wages and revise them periodically after taking into account the rise in the Consumer Price Index Number so as to compensate the workers for the loss of their real earnings because of the rise in the cost of living.

Contract Labour System in Public Sector Undertakings

4091. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether contract labour system is still in existence in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, names of the undertakings where this system is prevailing at present;

(c) whether Government are committed to abolish the contract labour system in Public Undertakings;

(d) whether Government have given instructions to abolish the system in Public Undertakings; and

(e) if so, detail of such instructions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) and (b) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 does not envisage complete abolition of the contract labour system. The Act provides for the abolition of employment of contract labour in certain circumstances and for the regulation of employment of contract labour in other cases. The Central Government has prohibited the employment of contract labour in certain jobs/operations in some industries. The details are given in the statement below.

The employment of contract labour is not illegal unless such employment has been prohibited by the appropriate Government under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970. Information about public sector undertakings where the contract labour system is prevalent is not maintained. State Governments are appropriate Governments in respect of a large number of Control Government public sector undertakings.

(c) Government are committed to the abolition and regulation of contract labour system within the framework of the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

(d) The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 does not differentiate between the private sector and the public sector in the matter of employment and regulation of contract labour.

(e) Does not arise.