

[English]

Telecast of Calcutta Doordarshan Programmes in Tripura

1357. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken note of the demand of the people of Tripura to telecast more regional programme as well as Calcutta Doordarshan's programme in Tripura;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Requests for telecast of more regional programmes from Doordarshan Kendra, Agartala and for telecast of Doordarshan Kendra Calcutta's programmes in Tripura have been received by the Government. Due to constraints of resources, it is not possible for the present to increase the telecast hours of Doordarshan Kendra, Agartala. However, Schemes of augmentation of Studio facilities at Agartala and expansion of TV network in the State of Tripura have been included in the 9th Plan proposals. As regards the request of relay of Doordarshan Kendra Calcutta's programmes by Doordarshan Kendra, Agartala, the present practice in Doordarshan does not provide for programmes telecast from one capital Kendra to be relayed by another capital Kendra. It is, however, stated that Bengali service of DD-7 Channel uplinked from Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta is available via Satellite Mode throughout the country including the State of Tripura by using suitable Dish-Antenna system.

[Translation]

Licensing System for Cold Storages

1358. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to abolish the licensing system for setting up cold storages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said system is likely to be abolished?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The Cold Storage Order, 1980 which was

applicable throughout the country except in the States of Bihar, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, has been repealed by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (Department of Rural Development) vide its Order No. 18011/3/94-M.II dated 27th May, 1997, notified in the official Gazette of India on 27th May, 1997. Consequently, no license is now required from Government of India for setting up of cold storages in the country.

INDO-US Agreement of Science and Technology

1359. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and USA recently in the field of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the date from which this agreement is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

U.N.D.P. Report on Poverty Alleviation

1360. SHRI K.S. RAYADU :

SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "six point action plan to banish poverty" appearing in the "Hindu" dated June 13, 1997;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon; and

(d) the comparative figures of investment on Human Resource Development in India and China as per the report?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The funds under various Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programmes are distributed amongst the States rationally on the basis of proportion of number of rural poor in the State to the total number of poor in the country. One of main objectives of these programmes is to provide additional

gainful employment/self employment in a manner which is poor-friendly. These programmes help poor to cross poverty line.

(d) According to the UNDP's Human Development Report, 1997 public expenditure on education as a percentage of GNP during 1993-94 was 3.8% in India as compared to 2.6% in China.

Maps Consciousness

1361. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Survey of India has launched a popularisation drive to bring about map consciousness;

(b) if so, whether the Southern Circle of Survey of India has been entrusted with the work of publishing the maps of Goa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry and parts of Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, the cost of these maps;

(d) the number of Sales Centres in Karnataka for the sale of these maps; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to open more Sales Centres in Karnataka or to allow private book stalls to sell these maps and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Southern Circle, Survey of India is responsible for preparation of topographical maps and public series map. District Planning Maps including maps of important cities covering Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry and Goa. The responsibility of preparing similar maps for areas covering Andhra Pradesh has been entrusted to South South Eastern Circle of Survey of India.

(c) Maps of Goa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry and Andhra Pradesh are available in the price range of Rs. 21.00 to Rs. 28.00.

(d) There is only one map sale centre located in Bangalore (Southern Circle Office) in the State of Karnataka.

(e) There is no proposal to open more Sales Centres in Karnataka. The response of private sector has not been encouraging so far.

US Climatologist Prediction on Indian Monsoon

1362. SHRI P. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that climatologist of US predicted recently a severe case of

El Nino being in the offing which could affect the monsoon thereby causing droughts in India;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the drought situation the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Independent studies by scientists indicate lack of one-to-one relationship between El-Nino and Indian Monsoon. However, keeping in view the seasonal forecast issued by the Indian Meteorological Department and following usual practice every year Government is continuously monitoring El-Nino as well as the progress of monsoon rains, so that appropriate strategy to meet the contingencies, if any, can be adopted expeditiously.

(c) A model contingent plan for effectively responding to adverse rainfall situations in any year has been circulated to all States. The States' own plans include alternative crop strategy and suitable agronomic practices to meet rainfall deficiencies if any during any year.

Voluntary Organisations in Kerala

1363. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of voluntary organisations from Kerala that have approached the CAPART for assistance under JRY, IRDP, etc. during the last three years;

(b) the details of the projects sanctioned so far;

(c) whether several project proposals are still pending with CAPART;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) CAPART has reported that during the last three years about 800 voluntary organisations of Kerala State have approached it for grant of financial assistance for their project proposal.

(b) During the last three years, CAPART has sanctioned 172 project proposals of voluntary organisations of Kerala State. The amount sanctioned for these projects is Rs. 13.12 crores. The scheme-wise details of the sanctioned projects are given in the enclosed Statement-I.