

Implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme

5317. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been satisfactory progress regarding the implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme in various States during 1983-84;

(b) if so, the total hectares of land covered by the scheme against the targets of the plan; and

(c) steps Government have taken to achieve the targets of the plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). A target of covering 5 lakh hectares during the Sixth Plan was projected. An area of 3,24,645 hectares was covered under the scheme upto Kharif 1984 season. The target of covering 5 lakh hectares during the Sixth Plan would be exceeded keeping in view the business booked during Rabi 1985 in respect of which firm figures are not yet available.

Improvement in the Working of F.C.I.

5318. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would consider effecting improvements in the working of FCI in the light of suggestions sent to the Prime Minister of 22nd January, 1985 by the Federation of the All India Food Grains Dealers Association Delhi; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The perfor-

mance of the Food Corporation of India is constantly reviewed by the Government with a view to improving its operational efficiency. As the Food Corporation of India is an instrument for execution of Government policies, there cannot be any parity with the private trade.

Survey Regarding TV and Viewing Habits

5319. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any survey to assess the number of television ownership and viewing habits in the country and the level of viewership of different age, sex and income groups to know public opinion about TV; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b). An all-India survey was conducted by Doordarshan in 1980 to ascertain demograph profile of TV owning house-holds, viewing habits, viewership of individual TV programmes, etc. The survey was based on samples drawn from 12 places, viz. Delhi, Dehradun, Chandigarh, Bombay, Pune, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Lucknow, Kanpur, Calcutta, Madras and Srinagar. Over 13,000 respondents at these places were interviewed through a questionnaire. The findings of the Survey were made use of by Doordarshan for its own programming. The Audience Research Units and Research Evaluation Cells attached to Doordarshan Kendras have conducted several specific surveys since 1980. This is a continuous process.

Verification of Membership of Unions in Food Corporation of India

5320. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has received

a number of representations against the check off method arbitrarily applied by the management of Food Corporation of India for verification of membership of unions ignoring the mode of disciplines procedure;

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government against the management of Food Corporation of India alongwith the present position of the matter; and

(c) whether despite his assurance to Parliamentary Consultative Committee on 11 October, 1984 that this matter was subjudice the FCI management ignored Labour Ministry and took their own actions; if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The action of the Food Corporation of India management in introducing the check-off system for the purpose of varifying the membership of the unions has been challenged by the workers' unions through writ petitions filed in the High Courts of Kerala, Calcutta and Bombay as well as a Special Leave Petition filed before the Supreme Court. The matter is sub-judice.

Demands of the Indian Journalists Association

5321. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have information about the demands raised in the annual general meeting of Indian Journalists Association held at Calcutta on 23 March, 1985;

(b) if so, details of the demands, particularly the details of the demands relating to interim relief, upward classification of newspapers, increase in wages, rise in Dearness Allowance, house rent and Pension Scheme for all categories of newspaper employees;

(c) what is the present position; and

(d) the steps taken or contemplated by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) The Central Government (Ministry of Labour) has no such information.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Office Building of ESIC at Katihar
(Bihar)

5322. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Employees' State Insurance Corporation's own pucca building for its local office is ready in Katihar city in Bihar for the last few years;

(b) whether inspite of its own pucca building, the office is being located in a rented building in Katihar; and

(c) if so, the time by which Employees' State Insurance Corporation's local office will be shifted to its own building, and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) to (c). According to available information, the State PWD authorities had asked the ESI authorities to take over the possession of the local office building in January 1984. However, on inspection, the building was found to be situated on a low lying site which could get submerged with knee deep water during the rainy season. The ESI authorities are, therefore, now getting the site adjoining the building filled. The local office will be shifted to the new building as soon as the filling work is completed. Meanwhile, the local office continues to function in a rented building.