

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c). Mining activity in respect of all minerals other than coal is open to both the private sector and the public sector. These mines are located all over the country and the mining lease are held by numerous persons.

At present Government has no proposal to nationalise any mines.

Financial Assistance to Central State farm, Aralam

8863. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government have any plans for intensive cultivation of Central State Farm, Aralam in Cannanore district of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any financial assistance is sought from abroad for the development of the farm ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Aralam being a Plantation Farm, there is no scope for intensive cultivation by annual crops in this Farm.

(c) No, Sir.

Educational TV Programmes

8864. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether two high-power S-Band transponder channels on board INSAT-IB are utilised by Doordarshan for national TV network for sustaining the operation of low power TV transmitters for transmitting U.G.C. sponsored higher education TV programmes for School Educational Television (ETV) programme-feed selected States, and

for area-specific direct T.V. broadcast to augment community TV receivers in selected rural areas;

(b) if so, the names of the rural areas State-wise which are covered by Educational Television Programme, and whether it is also proposed to involve additional Low Power Television Transmitters for transmitting these programmes in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) whether it would be ensured that all Hill States/regions recognised by the Planning Commission would be covered by the Educational Television in this period; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the scheme of TV utilisation of INSAT, Educational TV Programmes for Primary school children were to be telecast in selected three-district clusters of the six approved States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. At present, Educational TV Programmes in Telugu, Oriya, Marathi, Gujarati and Hindi are put out via INSAT-IB in a time sharing mode, and the programmes in the respective languages are relayed by all transmitters in the aforesaid six INSAT States as well as four other States, namely, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. The Programmes are also received by 2000 Direct Reception TV sets installed in selected villages in the 6 INSAT States mentioned above. The transmitters as well as the direct reception sets cover large parts of rural areas in the aforesaid States. While it is not possible to exactly specify the names of the rural areas where Educational TV programmes are thus available, State-wise locations of transmitters relaying Educational TV programmes in the aforesaid States is given in the Statement below. As and when new transmitters are set up in these States during the VII Plan period, they will also relay Educational TV programmes.

(c) and (d). The responsibility for production of Educational TV programmes lies