

(a) the State-wise number of districts in the country where soil-testing laboratories are working ; and

(b) the steps proposed to set up laboratories in those districts where they do not exist at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) A statement indicating State-wise number of districts which have soil testing laboratories is given below.

(b) The State Governments have been requested to set up at least one Soil Testing Laboratory in each agriculturally potential district where they do not exist at present.

STATEMENT

<i>Name of State UT.</i>	<i>No. of districts where soil testing laboratories are functioning</i>	<i>Total No. of Soil testing laboratories (including mobile laboratories)</i>
1	2	3
1. Delhi	1	1
2. Haryana	12	28
3. Himachal Pradesh	11	12
4. Jammu & Kashmir	5	7
5. Punjab	12	49
6. Uttar Pradesh	56	56
7. Andhra Pradesh	23	29
8. Karnataka	19	28
9. Kerala	11	15
10. Pondicherry	1	2
11. Tamil Nadu	15	32
12. Assam	11	13
13. Bihar	36	39
14. Orissa	11	13
15. West Bengal	8	17
16. Nagaland	1	1
17. Mizoram	1	1
18. Meghalaya	1	1

1	2	3
19. Manipur	1	2
20. Tripura	2	2
21. Arunachal Pradesh	1	1
22. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	1
23. Sikkim	1	1
24. Gujarat	18	22
25. Madhya Pradesh	24	26
26. Maharashtra	12	22
27. Rajasthan	8	9
28. Goa, Daman & Diu	1	2
Total :—	304	432

[English]

Introduction of Computers for Soil Testing

4608. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce computers for soil testing and conservation of water for irrigation purpose and fix up time bound research programme in near future ;

(b) if so, salient features thereof ; and

(c) what are the difficulties in computerising irrigation system in the drought prone areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal to introduce computers for soil testing in making fertiliser recommendations. However, introduction of computers is being made at the Central level for planning and design of water conservation structures in organisations like Central Water Commission and the Concrete and Soil Mechanics Research Station, New Delhi in the Ministry of Water Resources. Computers

are being used for systems studies for planning and optimum development of river waters and for design of intricate water conservation structures. Irrigation projects are planned, constructed and operated by the State Governments, since irrigation is a State subject. These projects benefit both drought prone and other areas, taking into account techno-economic considerations.

Recognition of Federation and Associations of Small and Medium Newspapers.

4609. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) how many Federations and Associations of Small and medium newspapers recognised by Government in the country;

(b) whether the Indian Federation of small and medium newspapers recognition is pending with the Government;

(c) what are the criterion for extending recognition and whether every year surveys of the live membership of these Federations and Associations are made ;

(d) whether small and medium newspapers on its register consists of members whose publications ceased years ago and who have not paid their subscription for years together, if not, whether Government initiate investigation about the real strength of each Federation and Association and recognise only those which are genuine bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) to (d). The Government has no system of recognising federations and associations of newspapers whether small, medium or big. However, the Press Council of India recognises newspapers organisations only for the purpose of notifying them in connection with the constitution of the Council. Two organisations of small and medium newspapers, namely All India Small and Medium Newspapers Association and All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation were recognised by the Council during 1985. This recognition is extended on the basis of the documents furnished by such organisations. The Indian

Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers, which was set up recently, i.e. on 29.4.85, approached the Press Council in this regard and they were advised by the Council to stake their claim in 1988 when the term of the present Press Council expires.

There is no system of surveys and investigation by the Government. However, when an association stakes its claim as the Indian Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers has done recently for inclusion in any committee like Central Press Accreditation Committee and Newsprint Advisory Committee etc., onus is on that association to adduce evidence with regard to its being a representative body. Decisions in such cases are after after taking into account various relevant factors.

Service Conditions of Unorganised Labour

4610. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the unorganised labour are living under appalling conditions and are being fully exploited and if so, whether Government would help such groups to be organised; and

(b) whether benefits of welfare schemes specially low rent housing, health, education and security of service and pensionary benefits would be extended to this group as in some other developing countries such as Zambia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) A Centrally sponsored plan scheme for organising rural workers is in operation. Under the scheme 1500 posts of Honorary Rural Organisers have been allocated to 14 States/Union Territories.

(b) The Minimum Needs Programme and the 20-point programme give a high priority to rural house-site-cum-house construction programme. In urban areas also housing programmes are taken up specially for economically weaker sections.

In the Seventh Plan efforts will continue to improve the health and educational status