

(a) whether a final decision has been taken with regard to the sites of A.I.R. stations to be located at Cannanore, Cochin and Idukky in Kerala; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) and (b) The site for the proposed F. M. radio station at Cochin has been finalised and the State Government requested to hand over the same to All India Radio.

A site for a similar radio station at Cannanore has been suggested by the State Government, recently. All India Radio Engineers are assessing the technical suitability of the site.

The site at Idukky which is surrounded by hill ranges will be finalised after carefully examining the terrain profile map of this area, selection of a site in suitable topography is important here to provide coverage to wider area in the hill covered Idukky district. Action for this purpose has already been taken in hand.

Financial assistance to Kerala for flood relief

500. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether consequent to the devastating effect of the heavy monsoon on the Kerala coast, Government of Kerala have submitted any report on the assessment of the loss of life and property caused by rough weather along and off the coast of Kerala; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any request for the aid has been submitted by the Government of Kerala if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Central Government intends to extend any financial aid to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government of Kerala have not submitted any Memorandum seeking Central assistance in the wake of floods during current monsoons.

(c) Does not arise.

Allocation of funds by HUDCO to States during Seventh Plan

501. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Housing and Urban Development Corporation would spend Rs. 2,400 crores during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details of the funds proposed to be spent, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The tentative target of HUDCO for loan sanction during the Seventh Five Year Plan is Rs. 1845 crores. The State-wise allocation for loan sanction depends upon its area and population and also the operational targets of HUDCO for a particular year.

Study tours of farmers from Sikkim to other States

502. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry sponsors study tours of farmers from one State to other States;

(b) if so, whether any study tour of farmers of Sikkim to other States was sponsored;

(c) if so, the number of farmers, who visited the other States, the number of States visited and the years of their visits, and

(d) if no tour has been sponsored, whether there is any proposal to sponsor such tours for the benefit of farmers of Sikkim ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) This Ministry had been sponsoring study tours of farmers belonging to weaker sections of the community from one State to other States during 1981-82 to 1985-86. The scheme has since been dropped from 1986-87.

(b) During 1982-83, study tour of 50 Sikkim farmers was planned for visiting Himachal Pradesh to study temperate fruits. This programme could not, however, materialize due to the State Government's demand for higher rate of daily allowance to farmers than the approved rate.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

Earning by Doordarshan through commercial advertisements

503. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the amount earned by Doordarshan in the year 1985 through commercial advertisements;

(b) whether there is any time limit fixed per day for exhibiting the commercials;

(c) whether methodology of advertisement is adhered to; and

(d) the qualifications of persons scrutinising the commercial advertisements ?

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

by Doordarshan during the financial year 1985-86 through commercial advertisement is Rs 60.20 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir. Though the ceiling is 10% of the total transmission time, yet, at present, it has been kept at 5% of the total transmission time.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is ensured that Advertisements conform to the Code prescribed for this purpose.

(d) Commercial advertisements for the National Network are scrutinised by Controller of Sales at Bombay, and advertisements for local telecast are scrutinised by the Director of the concerned Doordarshan Kendra.

Establishment of independent news service for Doordarshan

504. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made in the establishment of an independent news service for the Doordarshan; and

(b) the technical facilities that will be made available to the staff connected with the news gathering and editing with details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) and (b) The proposal regarding establishment of a separate news service set-up for Doordarshan is at present in initial stages of consideration and the various details are yet to be worked out.

Mining activities of BALCO on Gandhamardan hills in Orissa

505. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken