

6. Report on the activities of the Specialised Sub-Committees.

7. Report on Regional Office Activities 1986-87.

8. Report on IDACA Activities.

9. Regional Development Fund and Members' Contributions.

10. Cooperative Data Bank.

11. Change of Nomenclature of the Regional Office.

12. "Hall of Honour".

13. Relations with International Organisations.

14. Venue and Date of the next Meeting.

3. ICA is a non-governmental organisation and the Government has no representation either in its membership or on the Regional Council. As such, the Government is not invited to participate in the deliberations of the business sessions of the Regional Council.

4. The minutes of the meeting containing the decisions taken are sent to the member organisations and not to the Government. The follow up action thereon is to be initiated and taken by the ICA Regional Office and the member organisations.

#### T.V. Serial "RAMAYANA"

311. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :  
SHRI PRATAP RAO  
B. BHOSALE :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of episodes in TV serial Ramayana ;

(b) the number of episodes of Ramayana telecast so far ;

(c) the present duration of telecast of this serial ; and

(d) whether Government propose to increase the duration of this serial ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA):  
(a) 52

(b) 39th episode was telecast on 1-11-1987.

(c) Each episode is telecast in a 25 minutes slot.

(d) No, Sir.

#### Telecast of TV Serial 'Mahabhart'

312. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :  
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any serial 'Mahabhart' has been produced ; and

(b) if so, when it will be telecast ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA):  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Prospects of Rabi crops

313. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :  
SHRI SOMNATH RATH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the late rains in many States have improved rabi prospects ;

(b) If so, to what extent the delayed rains have improved the Kharif prospects ;

(c) the measures taken to derive the maximum benefits from the late rains to improve the prospects of rabi crop ; and

(d) the assistance provided to the farmers affected by the Kharif crop failure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The late rains have benefitted the late sown crops and brightened the prospects of Kharif crop outputs in many parts of the country. However, it is too early to arrive at the actual effect of these late rains.

(c) A rabi crop production strategy is being implemented to derive maximum benefit from these late rains, which *inter-alia* includes augmenting supply of inputs like seeds & fertilisers, and effective use of available water in the reservoirs.

(d) Under the relief measures, assistance is provided to the small and marginal farmers, whose crops have been damaged to the extent of 50 percent or more, in the form of agricultural input subsidy limited to Rs. 200.00 per hectare for the crop area damaged.

#### Drought in Gujarat

314. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :  
SHRI AMARSINGH  
RATHWA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of taluqas in Saurashtra (Gujarat) severely affected by drought during the current year;

(b) whether any central team visited those Taluqas;

(c) if so, the recommendations made by the team;

(d) the details of assistance being given to Gujarat State to face the situation; and

(e) the provision made to provide drinking water available in chronically drought affected districts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) The State Government reported that all talukas of Districts in Saurashtra were affected by drought. The Central Team visited some of these talukas.

(c) and (d) Based on the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief (HLCR) thereon, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 64.78 crore has been approved for drought relief in Gujarat. In addition, Rs. 12.00 lakh for increasing vegetable production and Rs. 15.00 crore for completion of irrigation projects have also been approved under drought relief programmes.

(e) A provision of Rs. 12.66 crores has been made for drinking water in the ceiling of expenditure.

#### Implementation of employment programmes in Gujarat

315. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL ;  
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA ;

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the various rural development programmes sponsored by Union Government which are being implemented in Gujarat, particularly in drought affected areas to provide jobs to the landless labourers and small farmers;

(b) the amount earmarked for the purpose during the current year; and

(c) the quantum of foodgrains released under the "Food for Work" programme to Gujarat during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : (a) National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) are the two main employment generation programmes sponsored by the Union Government and being implemented in all the States including the State of Gujarat. These are the regular employment programmes for the unskilled rural poor and are not related to drought as such. Employment needs in rural areas of Gujarat arising out of drought are being met by special programme of works for meeting the cost of which the Union Government have sanctioned an advance plan assistance.