

being out of order are being received every month;

(b) whether old transmitter of some other centre has been installed at this low-power T.V. Centre and

(c) if so, the action being taken to remove the defects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir. Complaints about unsatisfactory performance of the transmitter were received from time to time, particularly during the period March 1987--July 1987.

(b) The low-power TV transmitter was removed and shifted from Poonch before being installed at Jagdalpur. The Transmitter was in good working condition at the time of its installation at Jagdalpur and even now has not outlived its normal life span.

(c) Certain components of the transmitter failed, resulting in interruptions in service during the period from March 1987, May 1987 and transmission on reduced power upto July 8, 1987. These could not be replaced immediately due to their non-availability in the indigenous market. The faults were nevertheless rectified and the transmitter is reported to be providing generally satisfactory service, except for small periods during September and October 1987, when water seeped into the antenna system due to heavy rains. This has also since been attended to. Certain imported spares are on order and have been partially received.

[English]

Strengthening of agricultural information system

2337. DR. V. VENKATESH:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to

strengthen the agricultural information system to provide a quick and objective assessment of the extent of losses caused by drought and floods; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. There is no proposal to modify the existing system of compiling data relating to losses caused by drought and floods.

Disaster preparedness programme in A.P.

2338. SHRI SRIHARI RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received any representation from Andhra Pradesh for sanctioning a sum of Rs. 15 crores to implement the Disaster Preparedness Programme in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). In response to Government of India's suggestion for schemes for Disaster Preparedness to be included in the Seventh Plan, the Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted proposals for construction of cyclone shelters, provision of equipment and communication system and Bailey bridges. These proposals were in a very preliminary form for the purpose of formulating a Central Government Plan scheme for assistance to States for disaster preparedness. The details of the Central Government Plan schemes have not been finalised.

Non-toxic Herbal Pesticide

2339. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI:

DR. V. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware that a non-toxic herbal pesticide has been discovered;

(b) if so, whether tests on the pesticide carried out in some parts of Maharashtra and Indore have been very favourable;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, whether Government would take steps to go in for detailed tests on the pesticide?

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

(b) to (d). According to the available information, some tests have been conducted on 'Indiara' by Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Bahuri, Indian Drugs, Research Laboratory, Pune, Serum Institute of India, Pune, and National Institute of Communicable Diseases, New Delhi. Under the said laboratory tests and also under limited field trials, the insecticide 'Indiara' has been found to be effective against some vegetable pests and also as mosquito larvicide.

To encourage further systematic and scientific trials on 'Indiara' by the entrepreneurs, the Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968, has granted provisional registration to Messrs Heringer Bright Chemicals Private Ltd., Pune, for 'Indiara', in April, 1987

Claims of discovery of other herbal insecticides have also come to notice but full details and authentic information about trials conducted and results thereof are not known. No insecticide can be manufactured till it is registered with the Registration Committee set up under the Insecticides Act, 1968.

Retrenchment of Staff employed in field publicity set up

2340. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to retrench the staff employed under the Field Publicity set-up;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) how Government propose to provide alternate employment to the staff so affected and save them from unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to c). No final decision has been taken in the matter of reorganisation of the Directorate of Field Publicity.

[Translation]

Schemes under IRDP and DPAP for drought affected areas

2341. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain new programmes have been chalked out for the areas which are continuously in the grip of drought for the last four years, under the IRDP and DPAP; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) and (b). No new programme under IRDP and DPAP has been specially initiated for areas which have suffered consecutive droughts for the last four years. However, the programme content of DPAP which covers 615 blocks in 91 districts of 13 States has been rationalised so as to sharpen its focus on drought proofing. It has been decided that the major thrust would now be on activities