

tional priorities in production and distribution.

Committee to Study use of Plastics in Agriculture

5867. SHRIMATI SANYOGITA RANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had constituted a Committee to encourage the use of plastics in agriculture;

(b) whether the committee has also examined the fiscal policy and prospects for the use of Plastics; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) In March, 1981 Government constituted a National Committee on the Use of Plastics in Agriculture under the Chairmanship of Dr. G.V.K. Rao, a former Member, Planning Commission.

(b) and (c). The Committee is reviewing the possibilities of use of plastics in agriculture; the terms of reference include a review of the overall economics of application of plastics in different areas in agriculture under Indian conditions.

Control over the Satellite Facilities

5868. DR. SARADISH ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a act that some earth stations would take over the master control facilities of the satellite;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof;

(c) names of the stations which would be taken over under the master plan; and

(d) progress so far made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The Indian National Satellite is being pro-

cured by Department of Space for monitoring the health of satellite, altitude orbit control and such other functions. Deptt. of Space is putting up at Hasan an earth station designated as Master Control Facility (M.C.F.). For providing future telecommunication facilities through Satellite, P&T is putting up 28 earth stations at various sites in the country.

The two types of earth stations mentioned above have independent functions to carry out.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Master Control Facility Earth Stations—Hasan (Karnataka).

P&T Earth Stations:

(i) *Main Stations:* New Delhi, Madras, Calcutta, Shillong and Bombay.

(ii) *Primary Stations:* Jaipur, Lucknow, Jullundur, Patna, Ernakulam, Hyderabad, Bhubaneshwar and Ahmedabad.

(iii) *Remote Stations:* Bhuj, Jodhpur, Panjim, Srinagar, Leh, Kavaratti, Port Blair, Car-Nicobar, Aizawal, Agartala, Itanagar, Kohima, Imphal, Gangtok and Minicoy.

(d) The scheme is expected to be operational by Mid-1982.

Setting up TV Relays Through Microwave Link at Dhule in Maharashtra

5869. SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) is there any proposal to establish T.V. Relay Station through Microwave Link at Dhule in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, when it is proposed to be established; and

(c) whether in view of the fact that Dhule is a backward and tribal district, priority will be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.