

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|-----|---------------|-----|
| 21. | Sikkim | Nil |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 13 |
| 23. | Tripura | 1 |
| 24. | Uttar Pradesh | 16 |
| 25. | West Bengal | 10 |
| 26. | Goa | Nil |

* Night Post Offices

Details of NPOs in Union Territories is given below:

Union Territories

| Sl. No. | Territories | No. of N.P.Os. |
|---------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | Nil |
| 2. | Chandigarh | 1 |
| 3. | Daman & Diu | Nil |
| 4. | Pondicherry | 1 |
| 5. | Lakshadweep | Nil |

Total number of NPOs in the country is 139.

Discontinuation of T.V. Serials

491. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- the details of T.V. Serials discontinued on DD-I channel during the past six months;
- the reasons therefor;
- whether the Government propose to review their decision to restart those T.V. serials particularly 'Junoon'; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) and (b) It is reported by Prasar Bharati that Doordarshan on its own has not discontinued any sponsored serial on DD-I during the past 6 months. However, three serials viz. 'Awaj Ki Duniya', 'Mera Nam Tera Numbari' and 'Ushool' went off the air due to producers' inability to continue the telecast upto the sanctioned number of episodes.

(c) and (d) The requests of the Producers who were not able to continue their serials upto the sanctioned number of episodes can be considered for resumption of their serials keeping in view the availability of time chunk and programme exigencies of Doordarshan. As far as serial 'Junoon' is concerned, it has already been telecast upto the allotted number of episodes. All such decisions are taken by Prasar Bharati only and Government are not involved in such decision making process.

[Translation]

Lack of Staff for T.V. Tower in Sunder Nagar

492. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- whether due to shortage of staff for Television Tower in Sunder Nagar of Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh, all the programmes of Doordarshan are not being shown to the people of the area;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- the time by which the sufficient staff is likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) LPT, Sunder Nagar was commissioned in September, 1998 without the availability of staff sanction for its operation and maintenance. Presently, some staff has been deployed at the LPT from other Kendras and this transmitter is providing part transmission. Full transmission would be possible only after sanction of full complement of staff by the competent authority and their subsequent deployment.

Perishes of Agricultural Products

493. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- whether the primary agriculture products worth Ten thousand crores of rupees perishes in the country annually; and
- if so, the effective steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) As per the report of the Committee appointed by Government of India, and headed by Dr. V.C. Panse in 1966, the post harvest losses of foodgrains was estimated as 9.33 per cent. According to Dr. Swaminathan Committee report of 1981, losses upto 25-30% are occurred in fruits and vegetables annually during post harvest handling.

The steps taken by Government to reduce the losses include adoption of modern techniques of grain preservation, training demonstration and publicity, development of marketing infrastructure, godowns, cold storage chain, transportation facilities and promotion and dispersal of agro-processing units.

Scheme for Micro Elements

494. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for testing of micro elements of soil; and
- if so, the financial assistance proposed to be provided to Madhya Pradesh under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government