

- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and
 (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) It was not a Gherao but four or five Telephone Advisory Committee Members of MTNL Delhi met CGM jointly during the visiting hours and requested to hold TAC meeting early. The meeting of TAC will be held immediately after the Winter Session of Parliament.

[English]

Colossal Waste of Fruits and Vegetables

658. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State :

- (a) whether the Government propose to set up food processing units in the country especially in North-Eastern States;
 (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
 (c) the details of steps taken by the Government to prevent the colossal waste of fruits and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up any food processing unit directly in any State. However, the Ministry operates its own Plan Schemes for the growth and development of the processed food industry. Under these schemes, financial assistance in the form of soft loan or grant-in-aid is made available to Industry, Non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives, Research and Development Institutions and Human Resource Development Centres. The Plan Schemes envisage higher rates of financial assistance in respect of projects set up in North-Eastern States.

(c) The Ministry has given considerable importance and thrust to the development of Fruit and Vegetables Processing Sector under its Plan Schemes. During the period 1992-98, the Ministry provided assistance to various projects in this sector in the following manner. For development of infrastructural facilities in this sector the Ministry has provided about Rs. 18 Crores to 76 units having project cost of Rs. 191 crores. These units were for setting up of pre-cooling, cold store, mushroom projects, gerkins and hops projects. Two projects for setting up of food parks, one in Kerala and another in West Bengal were also assisted. For setting up/expansion/modernisation of fruits and vegetables units, the Ministry has provided about Rs. 15 Crores to 44 projects having total project cost of Rs. 288 crores.

The Ministry supported 17 projects of Research and Development and establishment/upgradation of quality control and analytical laboratories.

The Ministry supported establishment of 250 Food Processing and Training Centres in the country. These Centres are primarily meant for imparting training for fruit and vegetable processing in addition to providing hands-on experience to

prospective rural entrepreneurs.

Such activities would inter alia result in reduction of post-harvest losses of fruits and vegetables.

[Translation]

Study on the Working of AIR/Doordarshan

659. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any study has been conducted on the working of All India Radio and the Doordarshan;
 (b) if so, the details thereof;
 (c) whether the complaints of unsatisfactory broadcasting/transmission and excessive interruption in some of the centres of AIR and Doordarshan are being received continuously;
 (d) if so, the details of such complaints received during the last seven months;
 (e) whether representations have been received about collusion of the permanent employees of the Doordarshan and the AIR with other private T.V. Channels; and
 (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Institute of Mass Communication have made a study on the working of All India Radio Network. They have submitted their report recommending on Functioning, Personnel, Programme and Technological aspects of All India Radio Network. However, no study has been undertaken on the functioning of Doordarshan.

(c) and (d) No specific complaint about unsatisfactory broadcasting has been received by All India Radio. However, Doordarshan has received several complaints about bad quality of transmission of its signals mainly from viewers of Cable Homes of larger cities. Doordarshan has been continuously advising the viewers that they should pursue with their cable operators to provide signals directly from the INSAT satellites by installing a separate dish antenna for Doordarshan channels.

- (e) No, Sir.
 (f) Does not arise.

[English]

660. DR. ULHAS VASUDEV PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have submitted any proposal to include terrorism under the jurisdiction of the proposed international criminal court;
 (b) if so, the details thereof; and
 (c) the reaction of the other countries on India's proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF