

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) Government of India has already constituted a Group on Telecommunications under the Chairmanship of Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission with members from various Ministries/Departments.

[*English*]

Green Revolution

2800. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the observation of Agricultural Scientists and experts who have cautioned against the prolonged effects of Green Revolution which has after periodic boom have shown adverse effects;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government contemplates to evolve an alternative programme and to educate the farmers on the evils of monoculture-absolute dependence on only two major crops, rice and wheat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) A Fact Findings Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.K. Sinha, National Professor was formed by ICAR who have submitted their report about Agriculture in Punjab and Haryana. The report is under consideration and suitable action will be taken after discussions in the Steering Committee meeting so that necessary corrective measures could be taken to sustain and also to increase crop production in these states.

(b) and (c) A Steering Committee have been constituted including ADG (Soils and Crops) of ICAR, Director Agriculture Punjab and Haryana and Director Research Punjab Agriculture University and Haryana Agriculture University for suggesting necessary corrective measures to the State Governments of Punjab and Haryana for increasing production and productivity of Rice and Wheat. Besides the Indian Council of Agricultural Research have reoriented and intensified research efforts on crop diversification. Farmers education through extension system as well as university training programmes are also being organised regularly so as to transfer the latest production technology to the farmers.

Sanctions in Iraq

2801. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Government of India to mould the world opinion to pay heed to the sufferings of the people of Iraq due to sanctions; and

(b) the countries contacted by India to mitigate the woes of the people of Iraq?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) While urging full implementation of all relevant UN Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq, India has consistently drawn attention of the world community to the sufferings of the Iraqi people and advocated a peaceful and diplomatic resolution of the issues involved.

Cellular Companies

2802. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Cellular companies functioning in Metro cities, city-wise; and

(b) the year from which they are in operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) There are two Cellular companies in each of the four Metro Cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai.

(b) All the eight companies are in operation since 1995.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of Broadcasting Tribunal

2803. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Broadcasting Tribunal to check exposure vulgarity in the programmes aired through foreign television channels and to dispose of the disputes arising from them; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said Tribunal is likely to be set-up?