

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Number of STD PCOs functioning in Delhi are 9302 as on 31.10.1998.

(b) Revenue earned from these PCOs during the last three years is as under:

1995-96 : Rs. 107.58 crores.

1996-97 : Rs. 140.42 crores.

1997-98 : Rs. 164.67 crores.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Sir, a few complaints have been received regarding over charging by STD PCO franchisees. The complaints are investigated and if found to be overcharging, action as per rules is taken.

[English]

Panels of CSS Officers

2855. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regular panels of CSS officers for the posts of Under Secretary were withheld by the Government due to seniority dispute in Section Officers' grade.

(b) if so, whether the final judgement of the Supreme Court on the issue has been received by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which the Government are likely to implement the said judgement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) No panels of Grade I (Under Secretary) of the Central Secretariat Service could be prepared after 1986 owing to protracted litigation regarding inter-se seniority of directly recruited and promotee Section Officers. Even the panels for the years 1984 to 1986 were set aside by the Central Administrative Tribunal. By an order dated May 9, 1997,

the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed that the Common Seniority List (CSL) prepared by the Central Government on 15.5.1996 was required to be redone as per the law declared by it. Accordingly, the CSL was modified and issued on 3.12.1997.

Support Price For Milk

2856. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Corporation has urged the Union Government to fix a support price for milk;

(b) if so, whether any final decision has been taken by the Union Government; and

(c) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Latest Technology

2857. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to transfer the latest technology developed by the Scientists in India and abroad to the farmers so as to encourage them to adopt high yielding technology to increase production of agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government and Agriculture Universities and imparting training to the farmers and conducting field trials in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the additional measures being taken for increasing the production of foodgrains in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have

established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country. The activities include vocational skill-based training to farmers, in service training of extension personnel to update their knowledge, on-farm testing and front-line demonstrations of various agricultural technologies. In addition, 42 Centres for Technology Assessment and Refinement through Institution Village Linkage Programme (IVLP) and 60 Centres for Technology Evaluation and Impact Assessment are also being implemented for effective transfer of newly developed technologies on location-specific basis.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During 1997-98, a total of 11365 training programmes were organised benefitting 2.57 lakhs farmers in various areas of crop production, livestock production, fruits and vegetables cultivation, use of farm machinery and tools under both rainfed and irrigated conditions. In order to demonstrate the production potentials of important Oilseed and Pulse crops, the KVKs conducted field demonstrations on 4530 hectares.

(e) During the IXth Five Year Plan, the existing projects will continue to function. Besides, the Council proposes new projects including establishment of Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) to provide a single window technology support system for the farmers and other users, and strengthening of selected existing Zonal Agricultural Research Stations (ZARS) to take up the additional functions of KVKs.

Capacity of Patna Doordarshan Kendra

2858. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the transmission capacity of Patna Doordarshan Kendra so that the programmes of Doordarshan Channel-2 and Channel-4 could be viewed beyond the areas covered by Doordarshan at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) DDK, Patna comprises of studio set, an HPT and LPT (DD-2). Whereas there is no approved scheme for augmentation of existing HPT (DD-1) which relays national programmes and Bihar regional service programmes. Schemes for the establishment of an HPT (DD-2) in replacement of existing LPT (DD-2) at Patna is under implementation. With the commissioning of HPT (DD-2) metro and programmes (DD-2) would be

available to a larger area. Bihar regional service (DD-17) is available throughout the country via satellite by using appropriate dish antenna system. There is no channel 4 functioning at Patna.

[English]

Cadre Review

2859. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether there has been no cadre review in the Regional Passport offices since its inception;

(b) whether any such demand was projected by the employees for initiating a Cadre Review in that organisation; and

(c) if so, the present status of this demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes, Sir. There has been no Cadre review so far.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A detailed proposal for a comprehensive review of the Central Passport Organisation cadre is currently under Government's consideration.

Foodgrain Output

2860. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned, 'Foodgrain output to be lower in 1998-99; CMIE' appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 11, 1998;

(b) if so, the details of the facts reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to find out the reasons for decline in foodgrain production despite normal monsoon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The said news item has not appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 11/11/1998. However, Government is aware of the "Monthly Review of Indian Economy, October, 1998 edition of CMIE". According to this review, foodgrains will stagnate at around 193 million tonnes in 1998-99 with both Kharif