

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