

- Action has been initiated to amend the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) Act, 1962 to diversify the activities of NCDC and to provide it operational freedom and access to resources.
- NABARD has been requested to relax its norms relating to minimum recovery for sanction of credit limits and norms in the discipline of Minimum Involvement.
- Equity support has been provided to Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).
- The share capital of NABARD increased by Rs. 1000 crores during the last two years.
- State Level Agricultural Development Finance Companies have been set up in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka for strengthening the flow of credit for commercial or high technology agriculture etc.
- The Cooperative Bank of India has been registered for being set up to enable the Cooperative Credit Structure to impart greater internal mobility or its resources and access to external sources of assistance.
- Guidelines in regard to requirement of collateral security by way of mortgage of land/charge on land or third party guarantee have been liberalised.
- Action has been initiated by the RBI for implementation of some of the recommendations of the High Level Committee (R.V. Gupta Committee) set up by the RBI to suggest measures for improving the credit delivery system in respect of commercial banks as well as simplification of procedures for agricultural credit.
- The scope of the rural credit system has been widened by formulating links with NGOs and Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- The Scheduled Commercial Banks including RRBs have been advised to provide 40% of the outstanding advances to priority sector borrowers. Similarly, banks have been advised to lend 18% of the net bank loan to agriculture sector.
- In order to assess the scale of finance for various crops, district technical Committees have been constituted by State Government.

Besides, for providing credit facilities to farmers in the form of Kisan Credit Card so that the farmers may use them to readily purchase agricultural inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. and draw cash for their produc-

tion needs, the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), at the instance of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India, has formulated a model scheme designing a Kisan Credit Card for issue to farmers on the basis of their land holdings for adoption by the banks. Instructions have been issued by NABARD to all State Cooperative Banks and the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in August 1998, for early introduction of a suitable scheme in their State/UT/area of operation on the lines of the model scheme. Similar instructions have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India to all the Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding RRBs) for introduction of a suitable Kisan Credit Card Scheme. All the States have been addressed to ensure that necessary action is taken, so that the Scheme is implemented in all parts of their States by all the Banks including the Cooperative Banks.

According to the information received, Kisan Credit Cards have so far been introduced by 27 Commercial Banks, 4 State Cooperative Banks and 6 Regional Banks to farmers in various States including Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu and the remaining States are soon expected to follow suit.

[English]

#### Telecast of Regional Languages Programme On Doordarshan

3941. SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any programme are being telecast in the regional languages on Doordarshan I and II channels;
- (b) if so, the percentage of duration in each national language on these two national channels;
- (c) whether the time allotted to the national languages other than Hindi is quite negligible; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to allot more time to Hindi language programmes on DD I and DD II?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prasar Bharati have informed that statistics about such percentage of time allotted to different languages are not maintained centrally in a compiled form.

(c) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati have been intimated that each regional Doordarshan Kendra can originate programmes for 6½ hours daily in the regional language. In addition, Doordarshan has eleven Regional Language Satellite Services (RLSS) Channels devoted for exclusive programmes in regional languages.

(d) Prasar Bharati have intimated that there is no plan to allot more time to programmes in Hindi on DD-1 and DD-2 since the present quantum of programmes being telecast in Hindi is considered sufficient.

[Translation]

#### Telephones Out of Order

3942. SHRI RAMESH CHANDRA DWIVEDI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections installed under M.A.R.R. system in Banda, Chitrakoot, Kaushambi and Allahabad districts of Uttar Pradesh alongwith the targets fixed in this regard during the last three years;

(b) whether most of the telephones are out of order in the said district;

(c) if so, the names of the villages in the said district, where telephones are not functioning satisfactorily so far after their installation; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) In Banda, Chitrakoot, Kaushambi and Allahabad districts against a target of 1,315 rural telephones under MARR system a total of 1,269 telephones were provided in these 4 districts of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years. Yearwise and districtwise targets and the telephones provided are given in the following table.

		95-96	96-97	97-98	Total
Banda and Chitrakoot	Target provided	150 69	318 295	55 230	523 594
Kaushambi and Allahabad	Target provided	155 8	315 286	322 381	792 675

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The number of in-operational VPTs changes from time to time. In Banda and Chitrakoot districts 35 VPTs and in Kaushambi and Allahabad districts 245 VPTs are in-operational at the end of 98. The names of the villages are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) (i) Main reasons for the MARR VPTs becoming in-operational are :

- The MARR Technology has not been found to be very stable.
- Lack of stable and reliable commercial power supply for telephone exchanges. This affects the MARR Base Station and a large number of VPTs served by it adversely.

- Due to lack of proper roads and transport in the rural areas repairs take longer time.
  - Lack of reliable transmission medium in some of the rural Telephone Exchanges.
- (ii) To improve performance of VPTs following steps are being taken:
- Annual maintenance contracts are being signed with the suppliers for preventive maintenance and repairs of faulty equipment. Monitoring and supervision also is being stepped up.
  - Reliable transmission media is proposed for all the exchanges progressively by the year 2002.
  - Wherever required standby power system is being augmented.
  - From the year 1999-2000 Digital technologies like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) and TDMA/PMP will be used for providing Village Public Telephones in the villages not having telecom facility.

#### Statement

Subject : List of MARR VPTs not working satisfactorily in Banda and Chitrakoot, Kaushambi and Allahabad Districts

S. No.	Base Station	Village Name
1	2	3
<i>1. Banda and Chitrakoot District.</i>		
1.	Narani	Masani
2.	-do-	Raksi
3.	Baberu	Patawan
4.	-do-	Baghanda
5.	-do-	Jalalbar
6.	-do-	Nibhaur
7.	-do-	Paras
8.	Kamasin	Audaha
9.	Bandaalaha	
10.	-do-	Palani
11.	-do-	Pista
12.	-do-	Chechria