

[English]

Telecast of Calcutta Doordarshan Programmes in Tripura

1357. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken note of the demand of the people of Tripura to telecast more regional programme as well as Calcutta Doordarshan's programme in Tripura;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Requests for telecast of more regional programmes from Doordarshan Kendra, Agartala and for telecast of Doordarshan Kendra Calcutta's programmes in Tripura have been received by the Government. Due to constraints of resources, it is not possible for the present to increase the telecast hours of Doordarshan Kendra, Agartala. However, Schemes of augmentation of Studio facilities at Agartala and expansion of TV network in the State of Tripura have been included in the 9th Plan proposals. As regards the request of relay of Doordarshan Kendra Calcutta's programmes by Doordarshan Kendra, Agartala, the present practice in Doordarshan does not provide for programmes telecast from one capital Kendra to be relayed by another capital Kendra. It is, however, stated that Bengali service of DD-7 Channel uplinked from Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta is available via Satellite Mode throughout the country including the State of Tripura by using suitable Dish-Antenna system.

[Translation]

Licensing System for Cold Storages

1358. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to abolish the licensing system for setting up cold storages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said system is likely to be abolished?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) to (c) The Cold Storage Order, 1980 which was

applicable throughout the country except in the States of Bihar, Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, has been repealed by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (Department of Rural Development) vide its Order No. 18011/3/94-M.II dated 27th May, 1997, notified in the official Gazette of India on 27th May, 1997. Consequently, no license is now required from Government of India for setting up of cold storages in the country.

INDO-US Agreement of Science and Technology

1359. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and USA recently in the field of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the date from which this agreement is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

U.N.D.P. Report on Poverty Alleviation

1360. SHRI K.S. RAYADU :

SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "six point action plan to banish poverty" appearing in the "Hindu" dated June 13, 1997;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the action proposed to be taken thereon; and

(d) the comparative figures of investment on Human Resource Development in India and China as per the report?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The funds under various Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation Programmes are distributed amongst the States rationally on the basis of proportion of number of rural poor in the State to the total number of poor in the country. One of main objectives of these programmes is to provide additional