

(i) **Area Expansion Scheme:** Under this scheme subsidy @ Rs. 3000/- per ha. is extended to small and marginal farmers for planting and maintenance of coconut gardens up to five years.

(ii) **Providing Financial Assistance for Irrigation Facilities:** Under this scheme Rs. 1000/- per pumpset is given as subsidy for irrigation facilities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Coconut Development Board has been set up to look after the development of Coconut in the country. Research on coconut is undertaken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). An ICAR Research Centre of All-India Coordinated Research Project on Palms is functioning at Bhatya, Ratnagiri, which already looks after the Konkan Region.

Fertilizer Technology Transfer*

*762. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited has taken up fertilizer technology transfer job in a big way;

(b) if so, the main features of the project and the amount of funds involved therein; and

(c) the extent to which it will be beneficial to agriculture?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIDEVI LAL): (a) M/s. Hindustan Fertilizer Corpora-

tion (HFC) have taken up several Fertilizer Education and Agricultural Development Programmes through which farmers, specially small and marginal farmers have been helped in achieving higher rate of agricultural productivity.

(b) The broad features are as under:—

i) Block demonstration on package of practices in farmers' fields with special thrust on overall agricultural development for small and marginal farmers.

ii) Soil Testing for NPK and Micro-nutrients.

iii) Farmers' training and study visits.

iv) Group discussion, Kisan Mela, Field Day, etc.

v) Transfer of technology for agriculture in rainfed areas.

vi) Tribal development and involvement of farm women in agricultural development.

HFC are spending annually around Rs. 12 crores per annum on the above activities. Out of this an amount of Rs. 8 crores per annum is met from the grant made available by U.K.

(c) The benefits which accrue from these activities are as under:—

— Increased use of fertilizer.

— Yield increase of cereal crops, oilseeds, pulses and vegetables.

— Increase of HYV coverage.

- adoption of improved agricultural technology.

Shipping Service Between Madras and Singapore

*763. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reintroduce the shipping service between Madras and Singapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce new shipping services between Indian mainland and various islands in South East Asia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the proposed routes?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) and (b). Shipping Corporation of India Ltd has been asked to conduct a feasibility study on reintroduction of the shipping service between Madras and Singapore. A final decision on the reintroduction of this service can be taken only after the feasibility report is received and examined by the Government. Government are also prepared to encourage private sector in organising shipping services between the East Coast of India and Malaysia and Singapore, if the Government receives such proposals.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Units for Manufacturing Telecommunications Equipments in Maharashtra

*765. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for setting up of units for manufacturing of machinery and equipments required by the Telecommunications Department during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the details of locations under consideration in Maharashtra for setting up such units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Following new proposals have been finalised after the formation of Telecom. Commission and are presently under different stages of approval and/or implementation.

Switching Equipment

1. ITI will be expanded from the present 15.5 lakh lines per annum to 22.0 lakh lines per annum.
2. Eight manufacturers have been identified for producing electronic exchange equipment of C-DOT design into 50,000 lines per annum each.

Transmission equipment

3. 28 manufacturers have been identified for manufacture of 1 Ch1/10 Ch1/30 Ch1 Radio systems and Multi-access rural radio systems.

Terminal equipments

4. Four manufacturers have been