

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) There is no approved scheme at present to establish TV transmitters in Ratnagiri and Raigad districts of Maharashtra.

(c) Whereas a low power TV transmitters is functioning at Ratnagiri, parts of Raigad district receive TV service from the high power TV transmitter at Bombay. Extension of TV service to the uncovered parts of Ratnagiri and Raigad districts would depend upon the availability of resources for this purpose during the VIII Plan.

#### **Special Grant to Punjab**

7454. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have sanctioned/propose to sanction special grant for the improvement of certain cities in Punjab as provided for Bombay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Spices Import**

7455. SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of each item of major spices imported during the last year;

(b) how much of these are produced in India;

(c) the contribution of Kerala in the production of each of these items; and

(d) whether Government propose to import those spices only through canalised agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Joint Ventures Abroad by M.M.T.C.**

7456. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to allow Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation to have joint ventures with certain companies abroad to ensure long term continuous supply of essential commodities to be imported;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) the names of the countries as well as the items likely to be imported?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (c). Preliminary proposals have been received by MMTC for setting up joint ventures in the United States of America and Jordan for manufacturing Phosphoric Acid/DAP so as to ensure stable source of supply at competitive prices. No concrete proposals have emerged.

#### **Export of Prawns**

7457. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: