

how many part-time employees can be kept; how many hours, remuneration is involved and for how many persons? It will also have to be seen how many employees can be had after retirement and from where? It is possible that some of the employees may be available from the State and the rest from the Centre.

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI : My question is about their pension; it has nothing to do with their other profession.

SHRI T. ANJIAH : When you say part-time, I cannot understand at how many places they are working.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Hon. Speaker, Sir, as has been asked by hon. Member Shri Nirmal Khattri, who originally put the question, ever since the development of the media, development of Doordarshan and All India Radio and the publication of a number of small newspapers in the country, the journalism reached tehsil and village level but these journalists whether they are part-time or full-time journalists or are engaged exclusively in newspapers, are insecure even today and nowhere have they got adequate arrangement for their remuneration. Therefore, through you, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether Government would consider some new policy about secure livelihood of the journalists working at village level throughout the country?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : The present Wage Board is considering the question of the wages of part-time workers also.

[English]

Supply of seeds to farmers by National Seeds Corporation

*192. **DR. K.G. ADIYODI :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure followed by the National Seeds Corporation to supply seeds to farmers;

(b) whether NSC is able to supply seeds according to demands of farmers; and

(c) the time required to supply the seeds by NSC after a demand has been placed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c) A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) National Seeds Corporation, a Central Government Undertaking, is one of the many public agencies that supplies seeds to farmers. The National Seeds Corporation supplies seeds to farmers through different channels, for example, through State Governments, State Seeds Corporations, Agro-Industries Corporations, Cooperative Institutions, through dealers appointed by the National Seeds Corporation and, lastly, through their own retail sales out-lets.

(b) The short-term and long-term demand of farmers for seeds is assessed on the eve of Kharif and Rabi seasons in a meeting organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, at which the representatives of State Governments as well as of the seed producers in the public and private sectors participate. A Supply Plan is drawn up for each State for seeds of each crop and different varieties of seeds of each crop, and the quantities agreed to be supplied by each agency. Normally, the National Seeds Corporation provides those quantities of seeds which the seed producers of a State cannot supply from their production.

National Seeds Corporation is by and large in a position to supply seeds according to the demands of indentors in the case of all cereals of all-India importance as well as other crops including pulses, oil-seeds, fodder, fibre crops and vegetables, if requisitions have been placed in time. On several occasions, specially in drought and flood situations, National Seeds Corporation had been able to meet

the demands of farmers even though very short notice is given. One of the tasks assigned to the National Seeds Corporation is to supplement the efforts of the States in meeting the seed requirements. Sometimes, however, there are difficulties in meeting the demand at short notice of specific varieties.

(c) Normally, indents should be placed at least a year in advance with the National Seeds Corporation so that the seed required is produced and supplied in time. Besides planning for firm indents received, the National Seeds Corporation assesses the likely demand and plans production at its own risk. Therefore, it is able to supply seeds even at short notice to the extent possible.

DR. K.G. ADIYODI : There are ever so many agencies for supplying seeds and seedlings in the country. The National Seeds Corporation, the National Oilseeds Corporation, The Vegetable Oil Development Board, the National Dairy Development Board, as well as Commodity Boards are in the field in addition to the State Government agencies. But there is no coordination and cooperation in this respect and they are not in a position to assess the demand of seeds and seedlings in advance. Is there any step taken by the Government to coordinate all these bodies and to ascertain in advance the demand of the country for supplying seeds and seedlings to the farmers in the country ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : There is very good coordination between all these agencies. Government itself is a coordinating agency. The Ministry of Agriculture is doing it. There is no question of lack of coordination in these agencies. In fact, in respect of foodgrains, we are in excess. We have got excess of seeds which are available with us. There is no shortage of seeds in the country.

DR. K.G. ADIYODI : In respect of cash crops, there is shortage of seedlings. Not only that. Diseased seedlings and seeds are being distributed. Especially in crops, it requires seven or eight years to

bear the cash crops. So, the farmers are harassed by distributing all these diseased seeds and seedlings to them. May I know what are the norms fixed for fixing prices of seeds ? Is it based on support price or market rate ? What is the percentage of the excess collected from the farmers for the supply of seeds and seedlings in the country ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : When I said that 'we have excess' I said it in respect of seeds of foodgrains and not of the cash crops. So far as the cash crop is concerned, seedlings in case of coconut are provided by the Coconut Board and in respect of other cash crops seedlings are provided by some Seed Corporations, National State Farms Corporations of India, etc. The price of the seeds are fixed by the producing agencies taking into consideration the cost of production and the requirement of the farmers.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : The germination rate is the prime deciding factor in order to find out the quality of the seeds, to determine whether it is of bad quality or of inferior type, etc. Under the label of National Seeds Corporation, some of the private agencies have come into the field and they are also selling the seeds to the farmers. I want to know from the Minister whether any case has been instituted against such private agencies who have been found to indulge in such malpractices. This is my first question. Secondly, I want to know whether the National Seeds Corporation has got a Quality Control over these things in order to give good quality seeds to the farmers of the country.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I agree with the hon. Member that germination test is very important so far as seeds are concerned. So far as National Seeds Corporation is concerned, they have their own Quality Control Department. They have got their Laboratory. So far as the private seed producers are concerned, there are various seed certification agencies in every State. And they are looking into it. It is not the work of the National Seeds Corporation of India,

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :
 Hon. Speaker, Sir, the seeds procured from private and Government agencies are sub-standard and when we sow them, we do not get seedlings therefrom and as such no Crop is raised. We reaped only grass in the Rabi Crop and nothing else. I want to know whether Government would make some provision for payment of compensation in this regard or meting out stringent punishment, because the operation of supplying adulterated and sub-standard seeds is being done on a large scale. In my own constituency, there has been no crop in 1,500 acres of land due to sowing of sub-standard seeds.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
 We have no role so far as the private agencies are concerned, because Seed Corporation is under the State Government. Seed agencies in every State should see to it because the job of the National Seeds Corporation is to produce and supply seeds to the farmers. I am prepared to order an inquiry or take action if there is any complaint about the seed supplied by the National Seeds Corporation. So far as private agencies are concerned, as I have said earlier, the State Government should look to it. It is a State subject. So far as the question of compensation is concerned, how can we give compensation for that. How can we give compensation for the inferior seed purchased from a private agency and sowing it. I say why do you not purchase seeds from the National Seeds Corporation.

[*English*]

Construction work at Kasauli TV Tower

*193. **SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the construction work on 10 K.W. Kasauli T.V. Tower will be completed and the station will start functioning;

(b) the estimated expenditure incurred by Government for the construction of this T.V. tower; and

(c) whether Government propose to recruit local artists to project programmes in local language ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL):
 (a) Construction of TV tower at Kasauli has since been completed and the transmitter energised on full power of 10 KW on trial basis.

(b) The estimated cost of construction of the T. V. tower at Kasauli is Rs. 67.24 lakhs.

(c) Kasauli T.V. transmitter is a relay station and no programme production facilities are envisaged to be set up at Kasauli for the present.

[*Translation*]

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that this TV tower is being run on trial basis. I want to know since when it is being run on trial basis and the time by which its transmission will be started on regular basis ?

[*English*]

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Sir, the construction of the TV tower was completed, the equipment was installed, and as required by the procedure, the trials are going on. I expect that it will be commissioned in a month's time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Sir, I want to know the range in which the people will be able to view the programme of Doordarshan with the Commissioning of this TV tower. Secondly, the hon. Minister has stated in the last part of his reply that the programmes in the local language of the tribals will not be relayed. Therefore, will the hon. Minister consider transmission of programmes in the local language for the benefit of the hilly, tribal people and the people living in remote areas ?