

Delhi Doordarshan range as a result thereof ; and

(c) the details of programmes for making television more and more popular in the near future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL) : The proposed TV Tower at Pitampura will have a height of 235 metres. It is likely to be completed in the later half of 1986. On commissioning, the service range of Delhi TV would increase from 110 Kms. to 140 Kms.

(b) An additional population of 10.41 million including a rural population of 8.27 million will come under the range of the new transmitter.

(c) Improvements of programmes is a continuous process. New programmes like Newslines, Such Ki Parchaiyan have been introduced. Further programmes likely to be commenced include series on Science, Space, and Walt Disney cartoons etc.

[English]

Damage Caused to Paddy Crops by "Gad-fly" in Vidarbha Region in Maharashtra.

*18. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study team has visited Vidarbha region in Maharashtra State to assess the damage caused by 'gad-fly' to paddy crops recently ;

(b) if so, whether the study team has submitted its report to Government ; and

(c) the remedial measures adopted by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Central Study Team visited the gad-fly endemic area of Vidarbha region (Distt. Nagpur) in Maharashtra during

October, 1985. Based upon the report of the Team, the State Government has been advised to take curative and preventive action.

(c) By and large, the chemical control measures have been adopted to control gad-fly in the endemic area as referred to under part (a) of the Question. However, to contain the menace more effectively, the following recommendations have been made :—

- (i) Replacement of existing susceptible varieties with suitable resistant and tolerant varieties of rice.
- (ii) Seedling root-dip treatment before transplanting and use of granular insecticides on area basis in the endemic pockets.
- (iii) Popularising cultural and agronomic practices.
- (iv) Systematic pest monitoring for timely control operations.

Promotion of Integrated pest Management

*19. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADKAR PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken or proposed to be taken to promote Integrated Pest Management ; and

(b) how far these measures have proved effective in controlling pests ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) The Government have accorded high priority to crop protection research and extension in order to promote Integrated Pest Management and the following measures have been taken in this regard :—

- (i) Breeding and popularising pest and disease tolerant/resistant varieties of crops.
- (ii) Evolving and advocating suitable cultural and agronomic

practices for various crops in different regions.

(iii) Monitoring and forewarning pest and disease situation for timely and needbased control measures.

(iv) Conserving and augmenting biological control agents.

(v) Popularising needbased and judicious use of chemical pesticides.

(vi) Demonstrations and education of farmers for adoption of Integrated Pest Management approach.

(b) These measures have proved effective in controlling pests keeping the use of toxic pesticides restricted. Further bio-control measures have helped in controlling various pests of Rice, Cotton and Sugarcane dispensing with the use of chemicals considerably.

Remunerative Price for Coconut Growers in Andhra Pradesh

*20. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that due to non-fixation of remunerative prices for coconuts, the prices have sharply slumped suddenly to about Rs. 900/- per thousand as against the earlier price of Rs. 3,000/- per thousand ; and

(b) if so, steps taken by Government for ensuring a reasonably remunerative price to growers for their produce ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b) It is the responsibility of State Government to organise assistance to the coconut growers when the prices of coconut come down to uneconomic levels. The price of coconut at Rajahmundry does not appear to have reached Rs. 3,000 per thousand nuts at any time in the last five years. It has reached Rs. 1250 per thousand

nuts in October, 1985. The State Government of Kerala through its Cooperative Marketing Federation has inter-vened in the market to support coconut farmers. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has been advised to study the Kerala Scheme for necessary action.

Construction of Drains and Development of Roads in Trans-Yamuna Area

1. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether construction of drains and levelling and developing of roads has been undertaken in Laxmi Nagar, Shakarpur in trans-Yamuna areas ;

(b) whether work has been completed and roads and lanes have been cleared of earth-malba etc. dumped in the course of construction of drains ;

(c) whether Delhi Development Authority have inspected the level and flow of water ;

(d) whether they are satisfied with the work and quality and quantity of material used ;

(e) whether they have inspected that drains have already started cutting and water is flowing on the roads ;

(f) whether any complaints have been received and samples have been taken to ascertain the quality and proportion of cement used ; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The works are in progress and likely to be completed shortly. Wherever the work has been completed, the malba has been removed from the site.

(c) Yes, Sir.