

price is higher by Rs. 25 than that fixed for the previous year. The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) has been designated as the agency for support purchase operations. State Governments have also been requested to direct the cooperatives to be in the market to ensure that prices of rapeseed and mustard do not fall below the minimum support levels. The price situation is under constant review and NAFED and other agencies have been alerted for instant intervention.

For castor seed which is mainly a non-edible oilseed, at present no support prices are fixed by the Government. The prices of castor seed have declined from high levels reached last year, but these are still above those obtaining in 1983. However, the Government have been encouraging export of castor oil so that farmers get remunerative price for castor seed.

(c) and (d) : Export of castor seed is not allowed. However, substantial quantities of castor oil are being exported. The constraints in the export of castor oil arise from a number of factors including fluctuations in production, price competitiveness and international demand-supply situation.

For formulating a long term strategy for export of castor oil, a Working Group has been constituted in the Ministry of Commerce. Among other things, the Group will consider the question of institutional arrangement for achieving stable and remunerative prices for growers as well as ensuring volume and value stabilisation in export trade.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of T.V. Centre at Saharsa District

1625. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of television centres functioning at present in the country specially in Bihar ;

(b) whether his Ministry propose to set up a television centre at Saharsa district (Bihar) which is also head-quarter of Kosi Commissionery ; and

(c) if so, by what time and if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) Out of the 172 TV centres in the country, 9 are located in Bihar State. Two more centres in Bihar are under implementation.

(b) and (c) : Parts of Saharsa district are expected to receive TV signals when the high power TV transmitter under installation at Kurseong is commissioned on full power of 10 KW during the current year. Further expansion of TV service in various parts of the country will depend on the availability of resources for this purpose during the future Plan periods.

[*English*]

Chicks Sold by Central Poultry Breeding Farms

1626. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) number of commercial layer and broiler chicks sold per annum by Central Poultry Breeding Farms, year-wise, from 1982 to 1985 ;

(b) composition of Management Committee which periodically reviews working of Central Poultry farms ; and

(c) whether despite dependence on foreign sources for commercial chick supply Government propose to continue ICAR's Coordinated Project after 15 years of its operation ?