

[*Translation*]

S.T.D. Facility at Kullu-Manali

4665. SHRI MAHESHWARSINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by Government to provide S.T.D. facility in Kullu and Manali with a view to promote tourism and to provide facility to the tourists there:

(b) if so, the time by which these areas will be connected with S.T.D.; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both these places will be provided with S.T.D. facility by March, 91 subject to INSAT-ID becoming operational.

(c) Question does not arise.

[*English*]

Use of Biotechnology in Agriculture

4666. SHRI Y. S. RAJA SEKHAR REDDY:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a perspective plan for the use of biotechnology for improving agricultural productively: and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The perspective plan of ICAR on biotechnology provides for developing research capabilities and thrusts on genetic engineering for pest and disease resistance, wide hybridization, protoplast fusion, Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism for gene mapping, tissue culture for germplasm conservation, plant quarantine and micro-propagation, by creating effective biotechnology research groups on important plant commodities. Other components of the perspective plan are i) the use of biotechnology to increase the nitrogen fixing ability of symbiotic nitrogen fixing organisms to characterise cyanobacterial plasmids used as vehicle for gene transfer with special reference to pesticides degradation, toxine production and PH specificity, and (ii) research work in connection with Embryo transfer technology and bio-engineering in livestock species and their patho-biological implications for increasing animal production.

Families benefited under IRDP

4667. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-
THALA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the families benefited under the Integrated Rural Development Programme since its introduction, State-wise. and

(b) the number of families that crossed the poverty line State-wise?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), 340.12 lakh fami-