Crop Insurance Scheme

582. KUMARI KIM GANGTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the crop insurance scheme is not being implemented in Manipur;

(b)   if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c)   the measures proposed to be taken to compensate the loss incurred by the farmers in the State due to natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The existing Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) is voluntary in nature and as such the States are free to opt for the scheme. The State of Manipur is not participating in the scheme at present.

(c)   In the event of crop damage due to natural calamities the State Governments are required to assist the affected farmers out of the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund.

Use of Neem as Pesticide

583. SHRI C.P. RADHKRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government propose to launch schemes for the effective use of neem as pesticide; and

(b)   if so, the steps taken to promote the neem-based pesticides and to popularise its organic farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) For effective use of neem as pesticide, the Government has taken various steps under different schemes as under:

(i)   Under the Central Sector Plan Scheme namely "Central IPM Centres" use of neem based pesticide is being encouraged amongst farmers for control of various crop pests.

(ii)   Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 has made an exception to allow commercialisation during the pendency of provisional registration for Neem-based pesticides with a view to popularise them for control of pests of agricultural importance.

(iii)   Data requirements for registration of neem-based pesticides under the Act have been simplified to encourage entrepreneurs for easy availability of such a botanical pesticide for the benefit of farmers and the environment.

(iv)   The Indian Council of Agricultural Research is publishing "Neem Newsletter" on quarterly basis for faster dissemination of promising results for effective use of neem as pesticide.

Mulla Pepiyar Dam

584. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Union Government have received any representation from the Government of Tamil Nadu regarding increasing the height of Mulla Periyar Dam recently;

(b)   if so, the details thereof; and

(c)   the decision taken by the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Microwave Facility to Rewa

585. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the Government are aware that due to a storm in summer, the Microwave tower located in Sohagi hill of Rewa distt. of Gujarat has fallen down;

(b)   if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide microwave facility in the district;

(c)   whether Government propose to set up new Microwave tower in the district;

(d)   if so, the details thereof; and

(e)   if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)   The Rewa District already has micro-wave facility at Nauwsta, Mangawan. However, services affected due to fall of Sohagi Hill Tower, were restored on Optical Fibre media.

(c)   Yes, Sir.

(d)   Towers are proposed at the following stations;

1. Mauganj

2. Sirmore

3. Hanumana

(e)   Not applicable in view of (d).

Opening of Telephone Exchanges

586. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the subscribers in villages of Madhya Pradesh had deposited security, one year in advance, for opening of telephone exchanges, but neither the exchanges have been set up nor they have been provided telephone connections;

(b)   the time by which these exchanges are likely to be set up; and

(c)   the names of places where advance security has been deposited for opening of exchanges in the rural areas?