

(e) In order to ensure a certain level of funding to these districts various steps have been taken in the current year including doubling of the first instalment of funds under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and provision of an additionality of Rs. 37 crore for KBK districts in the Annual Plan of Orissa for 1998-99. Further, from the Additional Central Assistance available for Basic Minimum Services an amount of Rs. 7 crore has been earmarked for Emergency Feeding Programme and Rs. 2 crore for Mobile Health Units in these districts.

NAFED

2748. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Senior Official of the NAFED have cheated the Government to the tune of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the facts and detailed thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to hand over the task of probing to CBI; and

(d) if so, the further action likely to be taken by the Government against the involved persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (d) Complaints financial and administrative irregularities in respect of supply of pulses to Army Purchase Organisation (APO), import of sugar, export of red chillies etc. have been received against some officials of NAFED. NAFED has initiated disciplinary proceedings against six of its officials involved in the deal with the APO. Further, NAFED has also launched legal proceedings for the recovery of losses incurred in the deal against M/s. Delhi State Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd.

The complaint relating to supply of pulses to Army Purchase Organisation has been referred to C.B.I. for further investigation. Action will be taken after the receipt of the report of C.B.I. in this regard. This Ministry also issues guidelines and directions from time to time to NAFED with a view to ensure proper functioning and management of NAFED.

North East Mirror Programme in Nagaland

2749. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nagaland has minimum coverage in the Government sponsored "North East Mirror" programme;

(b) if so, the total time allocated to the programme and the part of each North-East State therein, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to project a separate programme to highlight the rich cultural heritage of the State of Nagaland;

(d) if so, the time by which this project is likely to be started; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) "North East Mirror" is a fortnightly magazine programme of 30 minutes duration. It has five segments containing (i) News Events of previous week in entire North-East (ii) the current issues of North-East (iii) development stories of North-East (iv) personalities/achievers of North-East and (v) heritage/culture of North-East.

Events/issues attracting publicity and awareness are incorporated in each episode relating to the concerned State of North-East including Nagaland. As such, it is not practicable to allocate time to each North-Eastern State separately.

(c) Prasar Bharati have intimated that there is no such proposal under consideration at present. However, a 7 episode Heritage Programme on the life and festivals of Nagas has already been telecast. Also a 83 minute film on Konyaks has been made. Besides this, 24 episodes of 30 minutes duration each on various developmental aspects of Nagaland have been commissioned in this financial year.

(d) The above projects are likely to be completed by the end of February, 1999 for future telecast.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Contradictory Economic Dates

2750. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: