

try has conveyed its inability to share the expenses on writing off the loan as there is no scheme under this Ministry which could contribute towards this objective.

[*English*]

Relations with Israel

65. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to improve relations with Israel during the last 6 months?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) At present India does not have any diplomatic relations with Israel. No steps have been taken to change this position. Government are of the view that the improvement of relations with Israel would be contingent upon genuine progress towards a Palestinian settlement.

Cotton Production

66. SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the target of cotton production likely to be achieved during 1990-91; and

(b) the cotton produced during the last year?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The final estimates of production of cotton for the year 1990-91 have not yet become due from the States. However, according to the present assessment, the production of cotton is expected to be around 106 lakh bales as against the target of 115 lakh bales.

(b) The cotton production during 1989-90 was 114.1 lakh bales.

[*Translation*]

Setting up of C-Dot Telephone Exchanges

67. SHRI KASHI RAM CHHABILDAS RANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had decided to introduce C-Dot technology in order to meet the demand for telephones in the country; and

(b) if so, the number of C-DOT Auto Exchanges set up during the last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90, 180 number of C-DOT exchanges were set up. 169 number of C-DOT exchanges have been commissioned upto November 1990 during the year 1990-91.

[*English*]

Cyclone Prone Areas in Andhra Pradesh

68. SHRIMATI T. MANEMMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cyclone prone areas have been identified in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the precautionary measures taken in these areas to save the people from hardships caused by cyclones?