

Council of Ministers to prepare recommendations on rationalizing SAARC servilities with a view to promoting effective functioning of the Association.

23. The Heads of State or Government expressed appreciation for the pioneering work done by Ambassador Abdul Ahsan, the first Secretary-General, during the formative years of the Secretariat. They welcomed his successor, Ambassador Kant Kishore Bhargava, and appreciated his valuable contribution to the on-going activities of SAARC.
24. They expressed profound happiness that the Fifth SAARC Summit coincided with the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Independence of the Maldives which provided them with an opportunity to express personally their solidarity with the people and the Government of the Maldives.
25. The Heads of State or Government gratefully accepted the offer of the Government of Sri Lanka to host the Sixth SAARC Summit in Colombo in 1991.
26. The Heads of State or Government highly appreciated the exemplary manner in which the President of the Republic of Maldives conducted the meetings of the Association as the Chairman of the Fifth SAARC Summit. They also expressed their sincere gratitude for the gracious hospitality extended to them by the Government and the people of the Republic of Maldives and for the excellent

arrangements made for the Conference.

[*Translation*]

**STD Facility in all sub-divisional Headquarters in Hill Areas**

146. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a scheme to link all sub-divisional headquarters in hill areas of the country with STD facility;

(b) if so, the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether all the sub-divisions of Almora and Pithoragarh hill districts are likely to be linked with STD by the year 1992;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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 the current plan period.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) By the end of 8th Plan.

(e) Due to the shortage of equipment.

**Supply of Drinking water in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh**

147. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: