

The remaining exchanges in Ernakulam and Kottayam Districts are also due for Expansion and their expansions will be taken up progressively during 8th Plan depending upon on the availability of switching equipments.

Group dialling facility is likely to be extended to all exchanges of Ernakulam and Kottayam Districts by the end of 8th Plan subject to technical feasibility in each case.

Bigger size exchanges in the above districts are expected to be connected to NSD Network by the end of 8th Plan. The remaining are likely to be connected to NSD Network during the 9th Five Year Plan.

Inspection of Indian Ships by American Navy in Gulf Region

173. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJIAHER: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of ships plying between India Gulf were inspected by American Navy on high sea;

(b) if so, the number of ships stopped, boarded and inspected by American Navy; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to avoid such inspecton in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). The following Indian ships were inspected by US navy ships on high seas in the context of UN Security Council resclution calling on member states with maritime forces in the area to inspect and verify cargoes and destinations of maritime shipping.

i. M.V. Jag Jamuna

ii. M.V. Tipu Sultan

iii. M.V. Akbar

iv. M.V. Vishwa Siddhi

(c) Does not arise, in view of the Security Council resolution.

Storage Policy

174. DR. DAULATRAO SONUJIAHER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have framed a new storage policy for the year 1990-91 to ensure support purchases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Market Intervention scheme for Apples

175. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 52 on 9 August, 1990 and state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to operate Market Intervention Scheme for apples in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b): The Market Intervention Scheme for Apples was in operation in Himachal Pradesh