

**Talks with Pakistan of Closing of  
Training Centres for Militants**

179. SHRI BANWARILAL  
PUROHIT:  
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:  
SRIPHOOL CHAND VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of training centres for militants are still functioning in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to discuss with the Pakistan Government about closing of these training Centre; and

(d) if so, the date on which the talks are likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). We continue to have evidence of Pakistani abetment, encouragement and support to terrorism and secessionism directed against India in the States of Jamu & Punjab.

(c) and (d). The confidence Building package proposed by India on 28th May, inter-alia, called for closure of all training camps for terrorists, stoppage of supply of arms, ammunition and explosives and arrests of potential intruders and terrorists. Three rounds of discussions have taken place between the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries, when the need for stopping all support to terrorists as an essential confidence building measure was emphasised. The Foreign Secretaries are expected to meet again towards the end of February 1991.

**Improvement in Postal Services**

180. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to streamline the postal services throughout the country and also propose to remove subsidy on postal services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to improve the postal services by the end of the current financial year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PARKASH): (a) No, Sir. India has the biggest postal network in the world and the expansion of this network has taken place as a result of the seven five year plans. The system is already streamlined. But in a network of 1,47,663 post offices and 5,00,890 letter boxes involving about 3,00,000 regular full time staff and about 3,00,000 part time staff and the dependence of the Department on railways, roadways and airways combined with the increasing density of population, multistoreyed buildings coming up in major cities and rapid rise of traffic has created a set of problems which has resulted in slower delivery of mail. One of the contributing factors has also been the ban on creation of posts as also the inability of the Department to introduce any measures for modernisation and mechanisation due to shortage of resources and resistance from the staff.

It is in this context that the report of the

Committee of Excellence is being processed in which a number of proposals have been made which are under active consideration. One of the proposals relates to removal of subsidy on the postal services over a period of 5 years because the Committee felt that until the Department can generate adequate resources, it may not be able to make the required investments in modernisation.

(b) Some proposals made by the Committee relating to introduction of technology are under consideration.

(c) The steps that are being taken to improve the postal services during the current financial year are to optimise the use of existing assets and resources and improve the working to the extent, we receive the co-operation of the staff in improving productivity. To reduce the dis-satisfaction of the staff, a few proposals to improve the terms and conditions are under consideration.

### **Increasing Agricultural Productivity in Rajasthan**

181. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive and prospective plan for improving the agricultural productivity in Rajasthan suiting its geographical conditions have been formulated; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the draft comprehensive Agricultural Development Project formulated and submitted by Govt. of Rajasthan are given in the attached statement. The proposal is being examined.