

[*Translation*]

Telephone Facility to Gram Panchayats

188. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide telephone facility to Gram Panchayats and Development Blocks;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey for this purpose during the current year; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

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) It is proposed to provide telephone facility to 188897 Gram Panchayats including Developmental Blocks during the 8th Five Year Plan.

(c) Yes Sir. Government has planned to provide Telecom. facility in 3,000 Gram Panchayats during the current year 1990-91.

(d) 172 IDPTs have been provided so far and attempts are being made to provide the Telephone facility in the balance Gram Panchayats during the current year subject to availability of equipments.

[*English*]

Expulsion of Indian Officials of consulate General in Karachi

189. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan expelled four Indian officials working in the Indian Consulate General in Karachi;

(b) if so, the charges made by Pakistan against these officials; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 8th October 1990, the Government of Pakistan asked India to recall four of its officials from Consulate General, Karachi on account of activities prejudicial to the security of Pakistan and not in conformity with their official status.

(c) In an official statement of 9 October 1990, Government of India categorically rejected Pakistan's vague and unsubstantiated charges as concocted and baseless. In addition to being an obvious retaliatory step it was an attempt to buttress the baseless allegation that India is involved in destabilization activities in Pakistan.

[*Translation*]

National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture

190. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to prepare National Watershed Development Programme for rainfed agriculture;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) whether the programme, which was implemented in the Seventh Five Year Plan, will also be implemented in Eight Five Year Plan?