

(b) if so, the arrangement proposed to be made by Government for their permanent rehabilitation and when?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the decisions taken by the Government in regard to permanent rehabilitation of persons occupying tenements at Ferozeshah Kotla complex, only fifty families (62 tenements) are to be shifted in two phases outside the monument Complex and the remaining colony regularized. Delhi Administration has been asked to identify the land for fifty families proposed to be shifted from the Monument Complex.

Recovery of House Tax Arrears by MCD and NDMC

5525. SHRI HARISHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the House-tax arrears yet to be recovered by Municipal Corporation of Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Committee;

(b) the total amount collected so far during the current years;

(c) the reasons for which the arrears could not be recovered; and

(d) the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) Arrears yet to be recovered are as under:

NDMC: Rs. 64.40 crores (as on 1.4.90).

MCD: Rs. 48.63 crores as on 1.4.89.

(b) Amount collected during current

year i.e. 1989 is as under:

NDMC: Rs. 3.14 crores.

MCD: Rs. 116.10 crores approx.

(c) and (d). Most of these arrears are disputed and stayed by course. Action has been initiated to get the stays vacated. MCD has given incentives to tax payers for prompt payment. Penal action has been initiated where possible.

[English]

Maintenance of National Highways in Bihar

5526. SHRIMATI USHA SINHA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in Bihar, the maintenance of National Highways have been handed over the State Government;

(b) whether the National Highways in Bihar are in traffic-worthy condition and as per the specifications approved by Union Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal to entrust the maintenance of National Highways to CPWD in Bihar; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Maintenance and development of National Highways in Bihar is being done by the State Government as agents of the Government of India.

(b) and (c). National Highways in Bihar are being generally kept in traffic worthy condition having regard to the guidelines and specifications issued by the Ministry from time to time.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The policy of the Union Government is to generally have the respective State Governments as their agents for the maintenance and development of the National Highways traversing the State.

[*Translation*]

Applications of Freedom Fighters from Bihar

5527. SHRI RAJ MANGAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of applications of freedom fighters from Bihar so far disposed of and those pending decision?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): All the applications received in this Ministry, with documentary evidence, have been processed and decisions taken have been communicated to the applicants/State Government.

[*English*]

Statehood to Delhi

5528. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to grant Statehood to Delhi;

(b) if so, the suggestions received from different political parties in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto;

and

(d) when the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) The Committee on Re-organisation of Delhi Set-up submitted its Report in December, 1989 and it is under consideration.

(b) The views of CPI (M)-(Delhi State Committee) is that Delhi be granted Statehood, but the requirements of the Central Government be given special consideration, Like jurisdiction over NDMC area. The CPI (Delhi State Statehood, and at the most, a part of New Delhi area be Pradesh Janta Dal is that Delhi be granted Statehood, and the State Assembly may have 84 members.

(c) and (d). The matter is presently under consideration.

Indo-Australian Cooperation on Agriculture

5529. SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of his recent visit to Australia;

(b) the areas of agricultural expertise in which guidance/cooperation is expected from Australia; and

(c) the likely developments before the next follow-up meeting between the two Governments?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) While visiting Australia from 8-11 February 1990 to attend Asia and Pacific Region's Cooperative Minister's Conference organised by the International Cooperative