

(a) whether Government have received requests for expansion and conversion of Wai and Bhuinj Telephone Exchanges into electronic exchanges; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Programme for Welfare of Farmers and Promotion of Agriculture

2768. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the details of the programmes initiated for the welfare of farmers and promotion of agriculture?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): The Government have decided to provide debt relief to borrowers who have taken loan up to Rs. 10,000 from Public Sector Banks and Regional Banks as on 2nd October, 1989. In order to ensure remunerative prices to farmers, the Government have appointed an Expert Committee to review the methodology on cost of production of crops to make these realistic. The Government have also decided to appoint an Advisory Committee to review the present policies and programmes for the promotion of agricultural development in the country, specially with a view to generating export surpluses

Bifurcation of Central Sector Schemes

2769. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:
SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to bifurcate the Central Sector Schemes viz., establishment/development of regulated markets, rural markets and grading centres which were integrated into one scheme after several years of activities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) the achievements made so far with regard to development of regulated markets, terminal markets etc.

(d) whether Government propose to create such markets in rural areas of Orissa inhabited by Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/minority population; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central sector scheme to provide financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid for development of selected regulated markets with necessary infrastructural facilities was launched in the year 1972-73. The scheme was later extended to cover rural markets and also for setting up of grading centres at producers level for selected commodities. Till 31.2.1989 an amount of Rs. 7514 lakhs was provided as central assistance to different States to develop 3601 regulated markets. This includes 598 selected regulated markets i.e., markets under command areas, markets under commercial crops and the terminal markets for fruits and vegetables, and 9 secondary markets under the integrated scheme for development of agricultural produce markets. This also covers 2994 rural markets under the pre-revised and revised schemes.

(d) The scheme for development of rural markets cover the markets located in tribal

areas. Under the pre-revised scheme and amount of Rs.769.3 lakhs was provided to develop 419 rural markets located in tribal areas in the country. This includes 64 tribal markets amounting to Rs. 104.3 lakhs as central assistance in the State of Orissa.

(e) Under the integrated scheme special emphasis has been given to provide central assistance by earmarking 20% of the budget allocation to develop markets under ITDP/DPAP & DDP areas.

Cadre Review of Doctors Employed by Central Police Organisation

2770. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:
SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cadre review of doctors employed by Central Police Organisation was undertaken to make them either at par with civilian CGHS doctors or at par with the combatised ranks of the para-military forces;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to implement the recommendations of the Cadre Review Committee?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) and (b). An inter-departmental committee had gone into the question of career progression of the doctors among others of those employed in Central Police Organisations of BSF, CRPF and ITBP.

(c) The whole question of cadre restructuring of medical services in Home Ministry is under active consideration and a decision is expected to be taken shortly.

Emission of Smoke by DTC Buses

2771. SHRI ANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the Delhi Transport Corporation buses emit thick smoke and fumes causing lot of pollution and inconvenience to road users;

(b) if so, whether any survey about the road-worthiness of these buses is conducted periodically;

(c) if so, the number and percentage of DTC buses especially the private buses under DTC operation found emitting smoke as per last survey; and

(d) the steps being taken to eliminate environmental pollution by such buses?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware of such complaints.

(b) and (c). No such survey has been conducted by the DTC. However, as per the Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, the inspection regarding road worthiness and fitness of the vehicles is done on annual basis by the Delhi Administration. Such inspection is a continuing process and is undertaken as per the turn of the vehicle on expiry of one year period. The private buses under DTC operation also are subjected to such inspection by the Delhi Administration.

(d) No such survey has been conducted by the DTC. The steps being taken by DTC to reduce pollution are:—

(i) Daily check of the buses before these are outshedded from the depot. Buses found emitting thick smoke