

**Sugarcane Seed Nursery Programmes**

2783. SHRI B. RAJARAVI VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned a scheme for implementing sugarcane seed nursery programmes scientifically in different States;

(b) whether it is proposed to be implemented by the Central Sugarcane Institute State Research Stations and sugar factories jointly;

(c) whether this scheme would also be implemented in Amaravathi Co-operative Sugar Mills Limited, Udumalpet in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) This Scheme consists of three major programmes viz.

1. There Tier Seed Production Programme to demonstrate the effectiveness of healthy and better seed on productivity;

2. Crash programme to demonstrate initially the effectiveness of selection, roguing etc. on quality of seed; and

3 Adaptive trials to prove the effectiveness of the use of healthy seed material and spaced transplanting technique on the Farmer's fields.

**Introduction of Speed Post Service at Udumalpet**

2784. SHRI B. RAJARAVI VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to introduce Speed Post Services at Udumalpet and Pollachi in Coimbatore district;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it will be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Air connection, staff requirements, anticipated traffic and commercial viability are the major constraints in expansion of Speed Post network.

[Translation]

**Arrest of Government Employees in Jammu and Kashmir**

2785. SHRI KESHARI LAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central and State Government employees in Jammu and Kashmir arrested on charges of their involvement in secessionist and anti-national activities during the last three months;

(b) whether they included some high ranking officials also; and

(c) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

**Telephone Service in South Arcot District, Tamil Nadu**

2786. SHRIP.R.S. VENKATESAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether numerous complaints have been received regarding unsatisfactory telephone service in South Arcot district of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K P UNNIKRIISHNAN) (a) Yes, Sir. A few complaints were received regarding unsatisfactory telephone service in South Arcot District of Tamil Nadu.

(b) Remedial actions being taken to improve the situation are:—

- (i) Replacement of manual and life expired auto exchanges during 8th Plan
- (ii) Replacement of worn out external plant, telephone instruments and other equipment

**Relaxation of Tourist Visits to N.E. Region**

2787. SHRIMATI CHENNUPATI VIDYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have

received any representations from State Governments of N.E. region with regard to relaxation of the restrictions on tourist visits;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) to (c). Some proposals were received from certain State Governments of the N.E. Region in this regard. After careful consideration, some more areas have been opened for foreign tourists in Assam and Meghalaya. These are: Sibsagar and Jatinga Bird Sanctuary in Assam and Barapani and Cherapunji in Meghalaya. The duration of visit to the places of tourist interest in Assam, Meghalaya and Manipur has also been increased. Various authorities like Indian Missions and Posts abroad, State Government officials etc. have also been authorised to issue permits to the bonafide foreign tourists liberally.

[*Translation*]

**Inclusion of New Areas Under Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)**

2788. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan Government has submitted any representation to Union Government to include 20 drought prone sub-divisions of Bharatpur, Sawai Madhopur, Tonk, Ajmer, Kota and Jhalawad in Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP):

(b) whether Union Government propose to include these sub-divisions under DPAP; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?