

would, however, welcome that these misguided elements abjure violence and join the main stream of National life.

Funds to Rajasthan Under Employment Generation Programme

2793. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 137 crores was allotted to Rajasthan under the Employment Generation Programme on the basis of daily wages of Rs. 7.50 to relief workers;

(b) whether the State Government has sought additional assistance to meet the expenditure arising out of payment of wages at the rate of Rs. 14/- per day as per court orders;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Union Government propose to provide more amount to the State Government on the above basis and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) In response to the memorandum submitted by the Government of Rajasthan in October, 1987, ceilings of expenditure of Rs. 137 crores for the period November, 1987 to March, 1988 and Rs. 77.50 crores for the period April, 1988-June, 1988, for employment generation works @ Rs. 7.50 per day per relief worker (out of total ceilings of Rs. 359.09 crore) were approved to the State Government under drought relief.

(b) and (c). The State Government sought an additional Central assistance for making payment to relief workers at the higher rate for the period May to July, 1988.

In response to the supplementary memorandum submitted by the State Government on 7th March, 1988, the ceiling of expenditure for employment Generation Works for the period April to June, 1988 was enhanced from Rs. 77.50 crore to Rs. 108.20 crore taking into account the daily wage rate of Rs. 10/- from May to June, 1988. In addition, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 9.38 crore was approved for July, 1988.

Consequent upon the judgements of High Court of Rajasthan and the Supreme Court, the State Government further sought an additional assistance of Rs. 21.82 crore to meet the expenditure arising out of these judgements for making payment of wages @ Rs. 14/- per day to the relief workers, with effect from 26.5.1988 to 31.7.1988.

(d) There is no proposal to provide more funds to the State Government under employment generation works. However, in order to help the State Government financially, Unit Trust of India has made an additional investment of Rs. 25 crore in Small Saving Instruments in Rajasthan against which the State has been granted a special small savings loan of Rs. 18.75 crore.

[English]

S.T.D. Facility in Towns of Wayanad District in Kerala

2794. SHRI K. MURALLEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce STD System in towns like Meenangadi, Sulfans Battery, and Meppadi of Wayanad District in Kerala;

(b) whether Government are aware that the telephone system in Wayanad District is

in a miserable condition; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government to streamline the same?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The telephone system in Wayanad district is satisfactory.

(c) The following steps are proposed to be taken up during the 8th Plan period for modernising the telecom service in Wayanad district of Kerala:—

- (i) Instal electronic exchanges at more locations to replace life expired electromechanical exchanges.
- (ii) Commission a new digital electronic trunk automatic exchange at Kozhikode.
- (iii) Augment the transmission media in that area to cater to the traffic growth.

[*Translation*]

Regularisation of Labourers in Postal Department

2795. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether labourers are working on daily wages in the postal Department;

(b) if so, the number thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to regularise them?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 4506 (full time).

(c) As per the directions given by the Supreme Court in its judgement dated 29.11.89, a scheme for grant of Temporary status and other related facilities including advancement to casual labourers has been prepared and submitted to nodal Ministries/Departments for their concurrence.

Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges

2796. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a scheme for rapid modernisation of telephone exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the Scheme;

(c) the total number of manually operated telephone exchanges in Bihar; and

(d) the time by which these exchanges are likely to be fully modernised?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) & (b). Yes, Sir. Modernisation Plans of Telephone Exchanges proposed in the draft 8th Plan are:

(i) Almost the entire switching capacity to be added during the plan period to be of electronic type.

(ii) Replacement of all manual exchanges by modern exchange.