

- (a) the number of Indian POWs still in jails in Pakistan
- (b) whether it is a fact that fifty four army officers and personnel who were taken as prisoners during 1965 and 1971 wars are still languishing in several jails in Pakistan,
- (c) if so, the details thereof.
- (d) whether some of them have died in prisons.
- (e) if so, the details thereof.
- (f) whether some of them turned insane due to inhuman torture meted out to them
- (g) if so, the details thereof, and
- (h) the steps being taken for their early release and repatriation to India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) According to available information, 54 Indian defence personnel missing from the 1965 and 1971 wars are believed to be in custody in Pakistan. Pakistan, unfortunately, has been maintaining that there are no such Indian defence personnel in its custody

(d) to (g) Pakistan does not acknowledge the presence of Indian POWs in its jails and therefore Government have no available information about their welfare.

(h) The question of the early release and repatriation of all Indian prisoners under detention in Pakistan, including POWs, has repeatedly been taken up with the Government of Pakistan. These efforts continue

It is regrettable that Pakistan has not yet responded positively to the numerous constructive proposals made by the Indian side over the years for resolving this humanitarian issue. Pakistan is yet to fulfill the specific commitment made by it at the Sixth Round of Foreign Secretary level talks in Delhi in August 1992 for entering into technical level consultations with India for resolving this long-standing issue to mutual satisfaction

Calicut Bypass Phase-I

1227 SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Calicut Bypass work from Pantheerankavu to Ramanattukaran in Phase I, from K.M. 20.870 to K.M. 28.124 is getting delayed due to want of revised estimate sanction.

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in sanctioning the revised estimate, and

(c) the time by which this work is likely to be completed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY) : (a) and (b) . The revised estimate has been

received after clarification from the state Government on 06.3.96 and is under scrutiny.

(c) It is too early to indicate the probable date of completion at this stage

Hiring of Vehicles By Mother Dairy

1228. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mother Dairy's Fruits and Vegetables Unit have been hiring private vehicles ;

(b) if so, the criteria therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware about the irregularities in awarding contracts of hiring private vehicles by the Mother Dairy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For hiring of private vehicles certain standard terms and conditions are being followed by NDDB which cover vehicle specifications, bank guarantee by transporter, in case of accident and resultant loss to the items of F&V Unit actual recovery of the cost of material, etc.

(c) No, Sir

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Plantation of Fruit Trees on Forest Land

1229. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to plant the fruit trees on forest land in the current plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State in which this scheme has been implemented;

(d) the State-wise area of land in which such plantation has been done ; and

(e) the State-wise details of the amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELAND DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAO RAM SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. However, fruit bearing trees can be planted on forest lands if the species are indigenous and are a part of an overall afforestation programme for the forest area in question.

(b) to (e) . Do not arise.