

(d) the date by which the project proposal is likely to be accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN): (a) to (d) . The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Houses in Villages

1344. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal to construct cheap and durable houses for the most needy people living below the poverty line in villages;

(b) if so, the time when the Government had received, this proposal, the outline of the said proposal and the decision taken by the Government thereon;

(c) the total number of houses to be constructed under the said scheme and the total amount likely to be spent thereon and the time by which the said action plan is likely to be completed; and

(d) the criteria on the basis of which these houses will be allotted to the eligible people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under Rural Housing Scheme, which was launched in 1993-94 with an objective of providing central assistance to the State Governments for implementation of their rural housing programme for the people below poverty line, proposals were received during 1993-94 and 1994-95 and Rs. 11.00 crores and Rs. 30.00 crores respectively were released to various State Governments. During 1995-96, this scheme was merged with Indira Awas Yojana with effect from 1.1.96 with the result that all the proposal under rural housing scheme received during 1995-96 were not considered and no grants have been released to States.

During 1995-96, proposals for construction of houses under Indira Awas Yojana through Non-Governmental Organisations/Voluntary Organisations have been received and the same are under consideration of the Government.

(c) It is proposed to construct about 30,000 houses under Indira Awas Yojana by involving the voluntary organisations. The central assistance will be released to the eligible voluntary organisations during the current year.

Under Indira Awas Yojana which is a continuing scheme of the Government, 24,61,759 houses have been constructed till the end of January, 1996 since its inception in 1985-86 with an expenditure of Rs. 3,129.28 crores.

(d) Under Indira Awas Yojana, the houses are provided to the Scheduled Castes/Schedules Tribes and non CC/ST rural poor living below poverty line.

[*Translation*]

Advisory Committee of ICCR

1345. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Advisory Committee have been constituted by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations for the various regions of the world;

(b) if so, the names of the members of the Committee, region-wise; and

(c) the procedure being adopted for the selection of the members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L.BHATIA): (a) No, Sir. As per the decision of the Governing Body taken at its meeting held on 22nd February, 1994, a Planning Committee was set up and entrusted with the task of preparing the Annual Action Plan for ICCR. The Planning Committee oversees programmes for all regions of the world.

(b) and (c) . Does not arise.

[*English*]

Indians in Jails in Gulf Countries

1346. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indians are jailed in Gulf countries for petty reasons without any justification;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government have secured any mutual understanding with those countries for the release of these jailed persons during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(d) if so, the details thereof, country-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government for the early release of the remaining persons?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Indians, like nationals of other countries and local citizens, are subject to local laws and may be arrested and jailed when these laws are violated.

(b) According to information available with our Missions, the number of Indian nationals in jails in Gulf countries are as follows :

S.No.	Name of the Country	No. of Indians in Jails As on Dec. 95
1.	Bahrain	130
2.	Iraq	2
3.	Kuwait	57
4.	Oman	38
5.	Qatar	206
6.	Saudi Arabia	3140
7.	UAE	1000
8.	Yemen Arab Republic	4

(c) and (d) . Our Missions in the Gulf invariably exercise consular jurisdiction in respect of jailed prisoners by visiting them and satisfying themselves about their status and welfare. In case of an offence like illegal immigration, the Embassy, after checking the national antecedents, issues necessary documents and approaches the local authorities, for their release and repatriation to India.

(e) While the host Governments are insistent that the law should take its course, our Missions are constantly making efforts to secure the release of Indian prisoners by taking up their cases with the local authorities for early completion of legal formalities

Greeting Card Sent by Pak President

1347. DR. S.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new year greeting card received by the President and Prime Minister from the President of Pakistan carried a photograph of Pakistan occupied Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Through diplomatic channels Government conveyed their strong resentment to Pakistan at the discourtesy shown to the President and the Prime Minister by the inclusion of such a photograph in the card.

[Translation]

Indian Veterinary Research Institute

1348. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post lying vacant in Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar, Bareilly, U.P.; and

(b) the time by which these posts are proposed to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AYUB KHAN): (a) Number of posts

lying vacant at Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar, Bareilly as per details given below :-

Group A	-	142
B	-	5
C	-	169
D	-	209

(b) The vacant posts are filled through various modes of recruitment as prescribed in the recruitment rules through Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, DPCs, Selection Committees etc., which is a continuous process.

[English]

Four Laning of National Highways in Kerala

1349. SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state .

(a) the latest position in regard to the four lane road construction from Alwaye to Sherthalai in Kerala ; and

(b) the amount sanctioned for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT : (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) The physical progress upto January, 1996 is 15.21 %.

(b) A sum of Rs. 93.97 Crore has been sanctioned for 4 laning of road from Alwaye to Sherthalai.

[Translation]

Hike in Power Tariff

1350. SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state .

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the "Times of India" on February 3, 1996 under the caption "Salve stress need to hike power tariff".

(b) whether the lower sale prices of the electricity particularly for the agriculture sector is one of the main reasons attributed toward the constant losses being incurred by the State Electricity Boards;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government have made assessment of the percentage of electricity being provided to agriculture sector, industry, trade, public conveniences and domestic consumption out of the total consumption of electricity in the country; and

(e) if so, the details of the break-up in this regard and the amount of loss estimated from the electricity being given to each of the aforesaid sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.