

(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.