

Colombo in January 1991, the two sides decided to take steps for the establishment of an Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Commission, chaired by the respective Foreign Ministers on an alternative basis.

The Joint Commission to begin with will have two Sub-Commissions dealing respectively with trade, finance and investment and with social, cultural and educational matters. A preparatory Senior Officials Meeting held in Delhi in April 1991 finalised the draft Agreement for the Joint Commission. The Agreement is expected to be signed during the Sri Lanka Foreign Minister's forthcoming visit to Delhi towards the end of this month.

Inclusion of Nepali in the Eighth Schedule of the constitution

637. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States/Union Territories whose Legislative Assemblies have passed resolution recommending the case of inclusion of Nepali Language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) the dates of passing of such resolutions by these Assemblies; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government for inclusion of Nepali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Sikkim, Tripura and West Bengal.

(b) Such resolutions have been passed by Sikkim Legislative Assembly on 23rd September, 1982, Tripura Legislative Assembly on 28th June, 1978 and West Bengal Legislative Assembly on 2nd July, 1977.

(c) The Government is of the view that inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule would create other repercussions and reactions. However, it will continue to be the endeavour of the Government to develop the cultural and literary heritage of all the languages irrespective of their being included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution or not.

Annual Funds sanctioned to ICAR Sikkim

638. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of fund sanctioned for ICAR annually during 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) the percentage of total funds allotted to ICAR, Sikkim branch during this period; and

(c) the achievements made by this branch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Sir, the funds, sanctioned ICAR during 1989-90 and 1990-91 were Rs. 253.69 crores and Rs. 319.71 crores respectively.

(b) The percentage of funds allotted to the ICAR units in Sikkim was 0.24 during 1989-90 and 0.21 during 1990-91.

(c) Twelve high yielding varieties including 5 in rice, one in wheat two in maize, three in mustard and a fodder oat variety for green forage have been developed. High yielding varieties have also been recommended for vegetable crops like fresh bean, pea, bhindi and radish and chemical control of leaf blotch disease has been achieved for Large Cardamom variety "Pink Golsey" yielding 1.32 q/ha. Maize and soybean/ricebean forage inter-cropping system has been developed giving an yield of 412 q/ha green fodder. Germplasm of exotic and indigenous fieldpea has been evaluated.

Technology for mixed farming of agriculture and livestock has been developed and recommended.

Exotic rabbits have been introduced for their adoption in Sikkim conditions.

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra established at Saramra organised 255 training courses benefitting 2009 farmers, farm-women and rural youths. It also organised demonstrations of improved package of production technology covering major food crops, pulses, oilseeds horticultural crops.

SAARC Reserve Fund for Economic Activities

639. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were any differences of opinion between the delegations of India and Pakistan on the creation of Reserve Fund for Economic Activities under the auspices of SAARC at the recent Maldives Meet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of other member nations to the Indian stand?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV-SINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) At the recent Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers in Male, there was no proposal to create a Reserve Fund for Economic Activities. However, there was discussion, at the officials level, on a proposal to create, with external assistance, a Regional Fund for SAARC programmes in general. Most Member States, including Pakistan, favour the principle of creating a SAARC Regional Fund, although they differ on details. India believes that such a Fund is neither necessary, nor desirable, nor even feasible. The SAARC Council of Ministers decided to convene an Expert Group Meeting to examine carefully all the issues relating to this proposal.

12.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, following the Supreme Court's order holding the levy of cess on mineral wealth in Bihar as unconstitutional, Government of Bihar is suffering a loss of about Rs. 2 crore daily. The Chief Minister of the State met the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister in this connection. In this regard, I would like to point out that there has been no increase in the rate of royalty of Rs. 5 per tonne, which was fixed 15 years back. The State Government had written to the Union Minister of Energy on 13-3-91 to revise the rate of royalty according to the current value of rupee, but the request has not been considered so far.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the financial condition of the State has deteriorated to such an extent that the work on all schemes has come to a standstill. In this connection, the Chief Minister of the State had also given notice to sit on fast unto death on 29th July in front of the Prime Minister's office in protest against Centre's reluctance to solve this problem. Therefore, I want that the Government should take a decision in this regard today itself.

The situation in the State has taken an ugly turn because the State Government has been suffering a loss of about Rs. 2 crore daily. The State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa etc. are also suffering losses on this account. Since the financial condition of Bihar is critical, it is very necessary to take a decision urgently in the matter....
...(Interruptions).....

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The revision of royalty on coal is pending for several years. The Central Government is not taking any decision on the royalty on coal to be paid to the State Governments. Why are they dragging the matter?