

million under two separate agreements together; one for the dam and powerhouse and the other for the canal portion.

(d) and (e) The cumulative utilisation till end of June, 1991 has been US \$ 194.998 million.

Sub-Foreign Post Office at Surat

556. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Sub-Foreign Post Office at Surat has been opened; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Arrangements to open the office could not be finalised because of administrative reasons.

[Translation]

Promoting Use of Manures

557. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural land where cow dung, compost and manures are used has more water retention capacity than the land where chemical fertilizers are being used; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to promote the use of manures which will in turn reduce the cost of agricultural production?

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

(b) State Governments are regularly advised to take adequate steps to increase the production and use of organic manures.

[English]

Flood Assistance to Maharashtra

558. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale damage caused to the property in Bombay due to heavy rains and resultant floods during the first week of June, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought assistance from the Union Government to meet the situation;

(c) if so, the details of the assistance sought and provided by the Union Government;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to send a Central team to assess the damage; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Government of Maharashtra have reported the following damage due to the heavy rains in Bombay in the first week of June, 1991:—

(i) No. of persons died	54
(ii) No. of destitutes	205
(iii) No. of huts fully damaged	5
(iv) No. of houses partially damaged	44
(v) Total loss	Rs. 54.50 lakhs (approximately)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Under the revised scheme for financing relief expenditure introduced from 1-4-90, on the recommendations of the 9th Finance Commission, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been created for each State with an