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15. It should be ensured that our pilgrims travel in air-conditioned buses between Jeddah and the Holy cities by charging an additional amount in the compulsory dues.
- AC system of the buses seldom works during the peak of the Haj season because of the heavy congestion. Hence it is not considered worth while to arrange these buses by paying additional SRLs 90/- per pilgrim.
16. A formal invitation to visit India should be extended by the External Affairs Minister to the Saudi Haj Minister, Dr. Abdul Wahab Aboul Wasie.
- The delegation has proposed that the External Affairs Minister should extend an invitation to the Saudi Haj Minister, Doctor Abdul Wasie at the time of inauguration of Haj House at Bombay. Date of the inauguration is yet to be fixed.

[Translation]

**Conversion of Telephone Exchanges in Kanpur and Fatehpur Districts of Uttar Pradesh**

1222. SHRI KESRI LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in the rural area of Kanpur and Fatehpur districts of U.P. proposed to be converted into electronic exchanges; and

(b) the time by which the said work is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Four telephone exchanges in Kanpur district and two in Fatehpur district are planned to be converted into Electronic Exchanges during 1991-92.

[English]

**Illegal stay of Bangladeshis**

1223. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Bangladeshi National living in various parts of the country unauthorisedly, State-wise;

(b) whether some of them have been provided with ration cards and have also been registered in voters list;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the issue has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the infiltration and repatriation of those Bangladeshi Nationals who are living in India unauthorisedly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) Since most of the Bangladeshi Nationals enter surreptitiously and go underground, it is not possible to determine how many such persons are living in India.

(b) No definite information is available.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The matter has been taken up with the Bangladesh Government on various occasions.

(e) Various measures have been taken to tackle the problem including intensification of patrolling by B.S.F. and other agencies. As and when infiltrators are intercepted, they are pushed back to Bangladesh. Border roads are being constructed for better communications. Mobile Task Force have been constituted for detection of infiltrators. Moreover, the State Governments have standing instructions to expel/push back Bangladeshi infiltrators as soon as they are detected. The State Governments have also powers to prosecute them under the Foreigners Act 1946.

### Research for Evolving New Cropping Pattern

1224. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether research is being undertaken to evolve a new cropping pattern to withstand vagaries of floods in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Universities involved in that research?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the All India Coordinated Research Project on Diaraland, a centre is located at North Lakhimpur (Assam). The Centre has developed cropping patterns and varieties of rice, toria, potato and green gram suitable for diara areas affected by flood vagaries.

(c) The Project is being implemented by the Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat (Assam).

[Translation]

### Conversion of Telephone Exchanges into Electronics in Bihar

1225. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert Hirnpur and Pankur Telephone Exchanges of Santhal Pargana into electronic exchanges;

(b) if so, the time by which the work in this connection is likely to be started and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number and names of telephone exchanges which have so far been converted into electronic exchanges in Bihar, district-wise and the number of those where this work is in progress; and

(d) the names of Telephone Exchanges which are likely to be converted into electronic exchanges in Bihar, district-wise during current financial year and the amount of expenditure likely to be incurred on each of them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) (i) Hirnpur will be converted into electronic exchange during 8th Five Year Plan.

(ii) Pankur is likely to be converted into electronic exchange during 1991-92.

(c) 101 telephone exchanges have been converted into electronic exchanges in Bihar upto 31st March 1991 as per details given in Statement I.

The work of conversion of 16 telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges is in progress.

(d) The details of 39 telephone exchanges which are planned to be converted into electronic exchanges in Bihar during current financial year are given in Statement II. Total expenditure of Rs. 25 crores approximately will be incurred on this account.