

ration of India through their own infrastructure. So far as efforts by the Government of India are concerned, it organises Zonal Seed Conferences prior to each sowing season i.e. Kharif and Rabi. The requirement for Kharif, 1991 and its availability was reviewed with the State Governments and it was observed that against the requirement of 18.92 lakh qts. of high yielding variety seeds, 19.02 lakhs qts. was available.

(c) In order to assist the State Governments for production and distribution of seeds, the Government of India also supplements their efforts through National Seed Producing Agencies and Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

[*Translation*]

Soil Conservation in Bihar

2300. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI
ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Centrally sponsored soil conservation schemes being implemented in Bihar;

(b) the funds allocated for those schemes during 1990-91; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check soil erosion in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Centrally Sponsored Soil Conservation Schemes implemented in Bihar are (i) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects (RVP) and (ii) Integrated Watershed Management in the catchment areas of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR).

(b) Rs. 670 lakhs have been allocated during 1990-91 to Bihar for these two schemes together.

(c) The steps taken by Government to check soil erosion in Bihar include mechanical and biological measures according to requirements of the terrain.

[*English*]

Projects to Control Floods and Erosion in Assam

2301. SHRI NURUL ISLAM:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects for control of erosion and floods in Assam are pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which those are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) There are three projects and they have been examined. One pertaining to protection of Mukalmua Howlighat Area (cost Rs. 17.83 crores) is to be considered for technical approval and the other two pertaining to protection of Nagaghooli Maijan Area (cost Rs. 17.60 crores) and Raising and Strengthening of Gabru Embankment (cost Rs. 3.91 crores) will be considered after the required modifications are carried out.

Publication of Telephone Directories

2302. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for publication of Telephone Directories from private sources;

(b) the terms and conditions of agreement between the Government and the private concern; and

(c) the profit earned or loss suffered due to privatisation of the publication of Telephone Directories?