

that came up for discussion were Tin Bigha, sharing of River Waters, Chakma refugees and illegal immigration. It was agreed that it was in the mutual interest of both countries to further strengthen bilateral relations by resolving the outstanding issues and by adopting a positive approach for enhancing economic cooperation in further.

S.T.D. Facility in Calicut Telecom Division

6962. SHRI K. MURALEE DHARAN: Will the minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone Exchanges under the Calicut Telecommunication Division propose to be provided with S.T.D. facility during 1991-92; and

(b) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b). Five telephone exchanges were proposed to be provided with S.T.D. facility in Calicut Secondary Switching Area during 1991-92. Out of these Balussery has already been provided with S.T.D. facility. Vengara, Tirurandari & Edapal of Mallapuram district and Kadalund of Calicut district are planned to be provided with STD facility during 1991-92.

Fish Disease in Backwaters of Kerala

6963. PROF. K.V.THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of fish in the backwaters of Kerala is perishing due to some disease;

(b) whether any study has been made to find out the cause of this disease;

(c) if so, the findings thereof and the assistance given by Union Government to Kerala to control this epidemic; and

(d) the compensation given to the fishermen who have suffered heavy loss due to this epidemic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Government of Kerala recently informed that fishes in the Vembanad lake have been affected with an unknown disease.

(b) and (c). Fish disease experts from the Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Instt. Barrackpore and Central Instt. of Brackish Water Agriculture, Madras have been deputed to Kerala to undertake detailed investigations and to suggest remedial measures. The investigations are in progress.

(d) There is no scheme for providing compensation.

Irrigation Bonds for Completion of Irrigation Projects in Karnataka

6964. SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought the permission of the Union Government to float irrigation bonds in order to mobilise resources for the completion of ongoing irrigation projects in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) It was suggested by the Government of Karnataka that the Government of India should examine the possibility of establishing an Irrigation Development Bank at the National level so as to mobilise additional resources for that irrigation sector. Alternatively it was proposed by the Government of Karnataka that if the Government of India was not in favour of such a Bank then the Government of Karnataka should be permitted to float irrigation bonds. The Central Government is examining the possibility of establishing an Irrigation Finance Cooperation failing which it is proposed to provide special plan assistance to nationally important projects for expediting their completion.

Loan for Growing Groundnut In Karnataka

6965. SHRI H.D.DEVEGOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sought loan from the Union Government for growing of groundnuts in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government for early sanction of the loan to Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). During 1986-87, the Karnataka Government sent a proposal for special Central assistance for speedier completion of selected irrigation projects. This included a proposal for a special line of Institutional credit for groundnut farmers. Certain suggestions were made by the Government of India but the proposal was not pursued thereafter by the State Government with the

Govt. of India. However, a special line of credit was made available by NABARD for Karnataka along with other States for oilseed growers who are members of cooperatives.

Reclamation of Degraded Lands In Karnataka

6966. SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted to the Union Government a proposal for reclamation of degraded lands on pilot project basis in the State for clearance; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for early clearance of the proposal?

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

(b) The proposal requires to be reformulated by the State in the light of guidance given by the Government of India and has therefore been returned to the state. The question of giving clearance to the projects, therefore, does not arise.

Ban on Milk Products In Delhi

6967. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on manufacture of butter from the cream under the Milk Control Order;

(b) whether in Delhi there is a ban on cream being extracted from milk;

(c) whether the instances of violation of the Milk Control order in Delhi have come to the notice of the Government during 1991,