

attendance of witnesses are contained in Section 160 of the Cr. P.C. and those relating to search by a police officer are contained in Sections 165 and 166 of the Cr. P.C. and Section 62 of the Delhi Police Act. Instructions have been reiterated to all police personnel to deal with the public with utmost courtesy. Senior Police Officers have been enjoined upon to visit police stations regularly to check against the harassment and victimisation of citizens and to deal sternly if any case of abuse or misuse of power comes to notice. The safeguards for ensuring that searches are carried out properly are provided under Section 100 Cr. P.C.

#### **Financial Assistance to Kerala fishermen**

2729. SHRI T. J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) the financial assistance given to the Government of Kerala under phase -III of the national co-operative development corporation assistance;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has distributed this amount to the fishermen;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) the financial assistance given to the Kerala State under National cooperative Development Corporation Phase II is Rs. 838 lakhs

(b) The government of Kerala has already released the amount to Kerala State Cooperative Federation for Fisheries Development Ltd (MATSYAFED), who in turn have distributed the Fishing inputs worth of Rs. 75.85 lakhs to Fishermen and Fishing

inputs worth the balance amount will be distributed by 31.03. 1992.

(c) and (d). does not arise.

#### **Earthquake Prone Places In Garhwal**

2730. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the report of Indian Institute of Technology in which it is stated that Garhwal region is prone to earthquakes and landslides; and

(b) if so, the steps initiated to move the people of the region to safer places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMNCHANDRAN): (a) Government are not aware of any report of Indian Institute of Technology in which it is stated that Garhwal Region is prone to earthquakes and land slides. However, according to the Seismic Zoning Map of India the districts of Chamoli and three fourths of Pithoragarh lie in seismic zone where MM intensity IX or more are probable. The remaining parts of Garhwal region are placed in Zone IV where maximum MM intensity VIII is likely to occur sometime in the future. The area is also prone to land slides.

(b) The Geological Survey of India has been requested to carry out a Survey to find out the critical villages in the area for rehabilitating the villagers in safer places. A preliminary Survey has already been conducted by the Geological Survey of India.

[*Translation*]

#### **Import of Plant products**

2731. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have relaxed the rules for import of plant products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of cases relating to import of plant products cleared since June, 1991?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. With effect from 20th January, 1992, the Government has relaxed the requirement of Import Permit for the consignments of plant and plant materials imported for consumption purposes and the requirement of Import Permit, Phytosanitary Certificate for the consignments of plant/plant materials imported as an accompanied baggage and through international postal channel have also been relaxed without compromising with the plant quarantine procedures.

(c) A total number of 9,755 cases (consignments) of plants and plant products have been cleared after the required quarantine screening upto 31st January, 1992.

[English]

#### Deficit in Oil Industry Pool Accounts

2732. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR  
MANDAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cumulative deficit in oil Industry Pool Accounts has gone to thousands crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) (a) to (d). Oil Pool Account has incurred sizable deficits from

1989-90, mainly on account of sales realisations not fully covering the costs incurred. The situation is being monitored continuously.

#### Boycott of Elections by Political parties in Punjab

2733. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:  
SHRI RABI RAY;  
SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some political parties boycotted the elections held in Punjab recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the parties which boycotted the elections?

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) and (b). Some political parties boycotted elections held in Punjab recently, possibly under pressure from militants.

(c) While national parties like Congress-I, BJP, CPI, CPI (M) and Janta Dal as well as Shiromani Akali Dal (Kalul) participated in the elections. SAD (Mann), SAD (Badal), SAD (Roade-Baba) and ASSIF (Manjit) boycotted the elections.

#### Return of Indians to Kuwait

2734. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH:  
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who have returned to Kuwait so far;

(b) the number of Indians working in Kuwait at present; and

(c) the facilities provided by the government for the return of Indians to Kuwait?