(a) to (e). Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA, under the Ministry of Commerce deals with the export of processed foods, has projected a potential average annual growth rate of 22.5% during the Eighth Plan period for export of processed fruit and vegetable products, meat and poultry products, rice, other processed food products, viz. gaur gum, pepper, cocoa products, alcoholic beverages, etc. The projection of APEDA also include export of fresh fruits, flower, plants, etc. No specific proposal has been received from the State governments regarding export of processed food products.

Telephones in Villages of Maharashtra

6214. SHRI PRAKESH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) number of villages in Maharashtra provided with telephone facilities a on the 31st January, 1992; and

(b) the time by which the remaining villages will be provided with this facility?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 5571 Panchayat villages.

(b) Government have planned to provide telephone facility to all the Panchayat Villages by 31.3. 1995 and other villages by 2000 A.D. progressively subject to availability of resorces.

Funds for Driling Accessories in GSI

6215. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) how long the Geological Survey of India has not been provided funds for procurement of the spare and drilling accessaries like as drilling rods, core barrels, diamond bits, castings, core lifter, winches etc.;

(b) whether the drilling work of the Geological Survey of India suffered for want of accessories and spares;

(c) if so, whether there is any plan to provide these spare accessories in near future; and

(d) if not, the reasons there for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Funds have always been provided to Geological survey of India (GSI) in accordance with the approved budget.

(b) Drilling work of GSE was marginally affected.

(c) Funds have been provided to the GSI with in the budgetary constraints.

(d) Does not arise.

Exploitation of Menerals by GSI

6216. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to restricts the Geological Survey of India from carrying out the investigations of strategic minerals like tungsten , Potash, gold etc.;

(b) if not, the allocation made to carry out the investigations of these minerals;

(c) whether any foreign firms is involved in carrying out the investigation of these minerals; and