

belled, bundled and bagged and despatched to the destinations. Volume of mail which will be handled in the first pilot project of South Bombay will be approximately 10 lakhs per day.

(c) Introduction of similar schemes in other metropolitan cities will depend upon the success of the project at Bombay and availability of funds. No specific time-frame can be given at this stage.

#### **Strategy for Speedy Economic Growth**

955. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether to deal with the problem of unbalanced regional development, the Planning Commission has evolved a new strategy for speedy economic growth of such areas; and

(b) if so, the details of the new strategy?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). Planning Commission have been trying to reduce regional imbalances through measures like higher weightage in resource transfer in favour of backward States, drought prone area programme (DPAP), desert development programme (DDP), tribal sub-plan (TSP), hill area development programme (HADP), western ghats development programme (WGDP), minimum needs programme (MNP), development of growth centres, poverty alleviation programmes (IRDP, NREP, RLEGP) etc. The thrust on decentralised planning, agricultural development through agro-climatic zones, the new employment scheme i.e. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana are also likely to lead to development in all the areas.

#### **Privatisation and Indigenisation of the Telecommunication Sector**

956. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:  
SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecommunication Commission has planned a package of measures to bring about privatisation and indigenisation in the telecommunication sector;

(b) if so, the measures adopted in this regard; and

(c) to what extent it will achieve the expected results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Certain sectors of telecom industry are already made open for investment by private sector. Telecom Commission recently held a conference on production in order to discuss the problems of manufacturers both in the public and private sectors with a view to give boost to indigenise production of telecommunication equipment in the country.

(b) and (c). The Telecom Commission will place major emphasis on indigenous production and self-reliance. Transfer of technology will be passed on to a number of local manufacturers and steps will also be taken to produce equipment of good quality and reliability. On the whole it is expected to treble the production from about Rs. 1100 crores per annum to Rs. 3300 crores per annum in the coming three years.

#### **Boost to Spices Production**

957. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study by the Planning Commission has revealed that India runs the risk of becoming a net importer of spices;

(b) if so, whether the study has suggested for creating a separate cell for spices in the Ministry;

(c) if so, the other measures taken/proposed in this regard; and

(d) to what extent, it will boost the production of spices?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI):

(a) No, Sir. No study has been made by the Planning Commission.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

#### **Filling up of Vacancies in General Categories in Government Departments and Public Undertakings**

958. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a large number of vacancies in Government Departments as well as in public undertakings in general categories;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) whether Government have any plan to fill up these vacancies; and

(d) if so, when and how?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). It is the responsibility of individual Government Departments and

public sector undertakings to fill up vacancies in the respective offices. This is not monitored centrally.

#### **Audit of Accounts of Service Organisations**

959. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH:  
SHRI RAM SAMUJHAWAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a statutory requirement to submit the audited statements of accounts by the service associations to the administration;

(b) if so, by which date the service associations are required to submit their audited statements of accounts;

(c) whether all the service associations under the control of Ministry of Personnel have submitted their audited statements of accounts for the last financial year; and if not, the steps taken for the submission thereof;

(d) the results of the screening of the audited accounts of the service associations during the last three years, Association-wise; and

(e) the details of irregularities noticed/found in the accounts and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e). Central Civil Services (Recognition of Service Association) Rules, 1959, which are inoperative for purposes of giving fresh recognition to Service Associations envisage vide clause 5 (c) that the audited statement of accounts of the service