

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Detailed soil investigation carried out for the approaches of the bridge indicated the need for construction of viaducts. This has resulted in the need to modify the alignment and to acquire additional land.

Installation of Earth Station in Lakshadweep

644. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in installation of the new satellite earth station in Lakshadweep; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Two earth stations at Androth and Kilton in Lakshadweep are in

operation since April 1989. The installation of other two at Agatti and Kalpani are in progress.

(b) Agatti: March 1990.

Kalpani: May 1990.

Development Schemes in Lakshadweep

645. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new development schemes proposed to be introduced in Lakshadweep during 1990-91 under various departments, separately; and

(b) the estimated employment likely to be generated as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) and (b). As per plan proposals for 1990-91 UT Administration has proposed 40 new schemes in the year 1990-91, implementation of which is likely to generate employment for 138 persons in Government sector List of Deptt. indicating the no. of Schemes proposed is given in the statement below.

STATEMENT

<i>Name of the Department</i>	<i>Number of Schemes</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
Animal Husbandry	2
Fisheries	3
Port Light House and Shipping	6
Secretariat and Economic services	1
Tourism	6

1	2
Planning and Statistics	1
Science & Technology	2
Education	1
Medical and Public Health	2
Industry	1
Weight and measures	4
Stationery and Printing	4
Fire Protection Control	1
Art and Culture	1
Social Welfare Court	4
Integrated Development of Small and Medium town	1
	TOTAL
	40

Remunerative Prices to Onion Growers of Maharashtra

646. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers in Maharashtra are getting remunerative prices for onion sold to the Central / State Agencies; and

(b) if not, the steps taken so far to mitigate the hardship caused to onion growers in Maharashtra?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b). In the month of December, 1989, on account of bumper crop of 'Pole' variety of onion in Maharashtra, there was a declining trend in prices of onions and there-

fore to protect the interest of farmers, the Central Government directed National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) to make purchases of onion under the Market Intervention Scheme in Nasik District with effect from 2.1.1990. NAFED purchased 31,781 MTs of onion at Rs. 70 per quintal Fair Average Quality (FAQ) upto 28.2.1990. Besides, NAFED made commercial purchases of the order of 4592 MTs of Onion in the price range of Rs. 70 to Rs. 85 per quintal. The State Agencies of Maharashtra, however, have not participated in the Market Intervention Scheme.

[Translation]

Talks with Terrorists in Kashmir

647. SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: