

Fortification of Indo-Nepal Border

1412. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposals to fortify the Indo-Nepal border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total border area which is likely to be fortified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c). As at present, there are no proposals to "fortify" Indo-Nepal border. However, keeping in view the activities of anti-national elements, the State Governments and all the concerned agencies have been sensitised to have better surveillance, coordination and sharing of the information and to remain in high state of alertness.

Forestry/Agro Forestry Projects

1413. PROF. (SMT.) SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tribal Cooperative Marketing and the Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) had surveyed the areas for implementation and monitoring of forestry or agro forestry projects of commercial importance, particularly in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any funds have been allocated for these TRIFED projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The questions do not arise.

[Translation]

Repatriation of Tamil Refugees

1414. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the talks regarding repatriation and rehabilitation of Tamil refugees have been held with the newly formed Government of Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the tentative phases for repatriation of such refugees and the time by which such repatriation is likely to be completed; and

(c) the expenditure incurred so far on the welfare of the refugees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) & (b) Talks regarding repatriation and rehabilitation of Tamil refugees have not yet been held with the newly formed Government of Sri Lanka. However, the repatriation process is going on well. After the new Government took over in Sri Lanka, one round of repatriation of those refugees who had given their willingness to return took place in September 1994 when 4,572 refugees were sent back. Repatriation again resumed on 27th February, 1995. From 27.2.1995, in the current phase of repatriation, more than 10,000 refugees

have been repatriated. The effort of the Government is to expedite this process and to send back the Sri Lankan Tamil refugees as early as possible.

(c) From July, 1983 to February, 1995, an amount of Rs. 108.34 crores has been incurred on providing relief facilities and accommodation to these refugees.

Irrigation System

1415. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Sinchayi Ka Prabandh Kisano Ke Haathon mein' appearing in the 'Amrit Varsha' dated February 2, 1995;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any study in regard to the loopholes and failures in the arrangements in maintenance, management and cost recovery of irrigation system;

(c) whether it has been recommended during an International Conference on Irrigation held last year to hand over the responsibility of organising and maintenance of irrigation system to the users;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve full target of irrigation successfully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Planning commission, Government of India had constituted a Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Vaidyanathan in October, 1991. This Committee has, inter-alia, studied the loopholes and failures in arrangement in maintenance, management and cost recovery of irrigation systems.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, a National Seminar Jointly organised by the Union Ministry of Water Resources and World Bank on farmers participation in irrigation water management from 21st to 25th June, 1994 at Water and Land Management Institute, Aurangabad has, inter-alia, recommended the handing over of the operation and maintenance of irrigation systems to the water users associations in a phased manner.

(e) A number of policy and programme initiatives have been taken by the government to achieve better utilisation of irrigation potential. These include (i) adoption of National Water Policy in 1987, (ii) implementation of Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme since 1974-75, and World Bank assisted National Water Management Project since 1987 in selected major and medium irrigation schemes in the country, and (iii) emphasis on research and developmental efforts in water management etc. Recently the Ministry of Water Resources has formulated the "Irrigation Management Policy" which has been approved by the National Water Board and is included in the agenda of the next meeting of the National Water Resources Council for its adoption. The above mentioned steps are aimed to achieve full utilisation of irrigation potential/facilities in the country.