

Gram Panchayats of Maharashtra in the Wardha district upto particularly December 31st, 1994; district-wise;

(b) whether all telephones are working satisfactorily;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Utilisation of River Water**

2321. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has conducted any survey regarding availability of water in river system composed of rivers-Aai, Manah and Benki in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for utilisation of water of these rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Central Water Commission had estimated water availability in the Aie-Beki-Manas river system as 3.76 million hectare meter of annual average run off, by conducting preliminary survey.

(c) The survey had proposed to utilise the available water for a storage dam in Bhutan, four kilometre away from the Indo-Bhutan border for producing hydropower of 1550 MW.

[*Translation*]

#### **Area Traffic Control System**

2322. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :  
SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision was taken during the previous years to start area traffic control system in order to increase the traffic facility and to put a check on the accidents in Delhi;

(b) whether the said scheme has been started in Delhi;

(c) if so, the funds allocated under the scheme; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). The decision to start the Area Traffic Control System in Delhi has not been implemented for want of administrative approval of Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(c) and (d). Token provision of Rs. 25 lacs has been made in the current year's Budget under the head "Computerised Area Traffic Control".

[*English*]

#### **Demand of Students of Institute for Physically handicapped**

2323. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the students of the Institute for the physically handicapped, Delhi has demanded for upgradation of the diploma course for Prosthetic and Orthotic Engineering to a degree course;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) to (c). The students of the Institute for the Physically Handicapped (IPH) have been demanding for upgradation of the existing diploma course for Prosthetic & Orthotic Engineering (2½ years duration) to a degree level course (3 years duration). As the Degree Courses run by IPH are affiliated to the University of Delhi, the IPH and the Government of India have already taken up the matter with the Delhi University.

#### **Amendments to IPC and CrPC**

2324. SHRI TARA SINGH :  
SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH :  
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :  
SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to make amendments in the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the amendments in this regard are likely to be made; and

(d) the extent to which the rising incidence of custodial deaths and other crimes are likely to be checked as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c). A Bill namely, the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 which proposes to amend various Sections of Cr. P.C./I.P.C. has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 9th May, 1994. The Bill is, at present, under the consideration of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs. The Government intends to shortly introduce another Bill called the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 1995. This Bill also proposes to amend various Sections of IPC/Cr. P.C. and also insert a new Section 114B in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

(d) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 proposes inter alia to amend Section 176 of Cr. P.C. to provide that in the case of death or disappearance of a person, or rape of a woman while in the custody of the police, there shall be a mandatory judicial inquiry; and in case of death, an examination of the dead body shall be conducted within twenty-four hours of the occurrence of such death.

#### **Bogus Freedom Fighters**

2325. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :  
SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received complaints that many persons are getting freedom fighter's pension illegally in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take against such bogus freedom fighters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) to (c). Complaints have been received from time to time alleging that certain persons have got sanctioned freedom fighters pension by producing false information/documents. This is a continuous process and no separate record of such complaints is kept. In case it is established after investigation, that a person obtained pension fraudulently, pension is suspended/cancelled and State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are advised to take steps to recover the wrongly drawn pensions besides starting criminal proceedings against them.

#### **Engineers India Ltd.**

2326. SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise the Engineers India Limited; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). There is no such proposal.

#### **Disturbed Area Act**

2327. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the impact of implementation of the Disturbed Area Act in Nagaland;

(b) whether a number of army personnel were killed during the last six months; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to curb these killings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) The declaration of the whole of the Nagaland as disturbed area under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 with effect from 4th April, 1995 has enabled the Security Forces to take effective action against the anti-national elements in the State.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The situation is under constant watch and close review at appropriate levels. Measures taken and being taken for countering negative activities for insurgent groups in NE States include, inter-alia, deployment of the Army and Central Para Military Forces, extension of financial assistance for modernisation and upgradation of the State Police Forces, declaration of affected areas as 'disturbed areas', declaration of major insurgent outfits as 'unlawful associations', improvement of intelligence machinery, better coordination among various agencies and obtaining cooperation of neighbouring countries for checking the activities of the various insurgent group.

#### **Poverty Line**

2328. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria of considering a person or a family living below poverty line;

(b) when this criteria was laid down;

(c) whether, in view of the steep rise in prices of all essential commodities, it is proposed to make an increase in the income ceiling of a person or a family for treating them as living below poverty line;

(d) if so, the details therefor; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) : (a) and (b). The Task Force on Projection of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand constituted by Planning Commission, in 1979 recommended a povertyline of Rs. 49.09 per capita per month for rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per capita per month for urban areas at 1973-74 prices. This has been used as the criteria for estimating the number and proportion of poor in India.

(c) to (e). The poverty line is updated to allow for changes in prices. The poverty line updated for the year 1991-92, i.e. the base year for the Eighth Five Year Plan, calculated by using Private Consumption deflator available from the latest National Accounts Statistics are Rs. 193.9 per capita per month for rural areas and Rs. 223.8 per capita per month for urban areas.