

been drawn to the newsitem regarding infiltration of terrorists through Bangladesh and Nepal' appeared in 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated October 4, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have taken up the issue with the Governments of Bangladesh and Nepal in this regard; and

(c) if so, their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). India's Security-related concerns have been shared with the Governments of Nepal and Bangladesh. These security related concerns were highlighted in the discussions at the levels of the Home Secretary during his visits to Bangladesh and Nepal.

In the case of Bangladesh, a Joint Working Group has been set up to examine, in depth, all outstanding issues and to recommend practical measures for resolving them.

As far as the Indo-Nepal border is concerned, in view of terrorist activities, the Government has established an anti-terrorist checkpost near Sonauli in Maharajganj district of Uttar Pradesh. Police Stations, outposts and immigration checkposts have been alerted to keep strict vigil. Border Security and Policing have also been tightened all along the Border. It has also been decided that a team of local Police/District Administration Officials of the border districts along the Indo-Nepal Border will meet every three months.

[English]

Kannada News Timings

1843. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bangalore Doordarshan has changed its Kannada news timings consequent on the change in timings of Hindi and English news on National network;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to maintain status-quo of the Kannada news timings in the interest of large section of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Kannada news bulletin telecast on Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore has been shifted from 7.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. in order to maintain uniformity with regional news bulletin telecast from other Doordarshan Kendras.

(c). There is no such proposal at present.

Development of Infrastructural Facilities

1844. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to develop infrastructural facilities in the border areas in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in that direction in different border States and particularly in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) to (c). Border Area Development Programme (BADP) is in operation in border blocks of States bordering Pakistan and Bangladesh to ensure balanced development of remote inaccessible areas situated near the border. Area specific schemes designed to take care of problems typical to border area, including development of infrastructural facilities, may be taken up under this programme.

Formulation of schemes is left to the concerned State Governments. Rajasthan Government is undertaking various schemes under BADP such as construction of roads, drinking water facilities, medical and health facilities veterinary hospitals, primary school buildings, panchayat buildings etc.

STD/PCOs in Andhra Pradesh

1845. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of STD/ISD, PCOs allotted in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the number of applications pending; and

(c) the number of new such PCOs proposed to be allotted in 1995-96?

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

Import of Coal

1846. SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of coal imported during each of the last two years and the current year, so far, grade-wise;

(b) the value thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to minimise such imports and to produce better quality of coal indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). According to the statistics available in the Directorate General of

Foreign Trade, the total quantity of various types of coal imported into the country during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (April-September, 1995) were as follows:

Year	Coking coals	Non-coking coals	Other coals including various types of cokes of coal etc.	Total	Data Provisional (In million tonnes)
					Value (Rs. in Crores)
1993-94	6.9	0.39	0.11	7.40	1463.29
1994-95	10.16	0.58	0.65	11.39	2224.16
1995-96 (April- Sept., 95)	NA	NA	NA	5.89	1249.46

Note :- The break-up of the imported coal for the current year is not readily available.

(c) Imports of coal are permitted under Open General Licence. Imports are made by the consumers exercising their own commercial judgement.

Import of coking coal, required for metallurgical purposes can not be totally eliminated, since imported coals are required for blending with indigenous coals on quality considerations.

The major steps taken to augment indigenous availability of coking coal include increasing raw coal availability by reorganising existing mines and development of new mines and modifications of existing washeries as well as construction of new washeries to increase the existing washery capacity.

Steps taken to improve the production of coal include opening of new mines and increasing efficiency and productivity in existing mines by modernisation application of new technologies and ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities. In addition, private sector is being allowed coal mining for specified captive uses.

Revenue from P.C.Os.

1847. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned from PCOs during the last two years and commission paid to PCO personnel;

(b) whether there are any defaulters among the PCO allottees; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to recover the dues from them ?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The issue of bills and recovery thereof is a continuous process. Procedures have been laid down for recovery of outstanding telephone bills. In case of non payment, the lines are disconnected and legal action is also initiated wherever necessary.

Revamped Doordarshan Programme

1848. SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently revamped the Doordarshan programmes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The rescheduling of the programmes include a change in the timings of the main evening Hindi and English News bulletins to 8.30 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. respectively, making programmes of DD 1 and DD 2 complementary to each other, increase in the timings of the regional language service and commissioning of the DD 3 channel of Doordarshan.

[Translation]

Irrigation Projects

1849. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the irrigation projects submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh after the promulgation of 'The President Rule' in the State to the Union Government for approval;