

[Translation]

Assistance to Gujarat

2711. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat have demanded arms from Union Government for maintaining effective law and order situation in the State;

(b) if so, the details of arms supplied during each of the last three years and till September 30, 1995; and

(c) the financial assistance allocated to States for this purpose during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : (a) There is no such request of the Government of Gujarat seeking arms from the Union Government for effectively maintaining the law and order situation in the State pending with the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no scheme for providing financial assistance to States for maintaining effective law and order situation in the State. However, a special financial assistance of Rs.22.75 lacs, Rs. 458.89 lakhs and Rs.474.14 lakhs had been extended to the State Governments of Goa, Gujarat and Maharashtra respectively during 1994-95 for meeting the expenditure incurred in connection with Coastal Surveillance Scheme.

[English]

Conversion of Telephone Exchanges in A.P.

2712. SHRI A. INDRAKARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh converted into electronic exchanges;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges pending for conversion into electronic exchanges; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be converted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) 1315 Nos. of telephone exchanges have been converted into electronic exchanges in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) 546 Nos. of telephone exchanges are pending for conversion into electronic exchanges as on 30.09.95.

(c) As per the objectives of 8th Five Year Plan, all MAX-III and MAX-II (L/F type) electro-mechanical exchanges are likely to be converted into electronic progressively by March, 1997.

The MAX-II US type and other MAX-I electro-mechanical exchanges will be converted into electronic on the expiry of their useful life.

Control of Head Works

2713. SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether in accordance with the provisions of Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 the control of head works of Ropar, Harike and Ferozpur should vest with Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB);

(b) whether the Government of Punjab has not handed over these head works to BBMB so far;

(c) whether the Chief Minister of Rajasthan had request him in June, 1994 to convene inter-State meeting of Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan to resolve the issue; and

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) Minister for Water Resources held a number of meetings with the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana & Rajasthan in July & August 1992 to discuss and sort out a number of Inter-State Water related issues including transfer of control of Head works of Ropar, Harike and Ferozpur to BBMB. However no further meetings could be held due to one reason or the other and the decisions taken in the earlier meetings could not be finalised.

The share of Rajasthan in surplus Ravi Beas Waters & Sutlej Waters is made available to Rajasthan through various contact/control points in Punjab and Haryana and transferring the three Head Works alone will not serve the purpose. The best arrangement would be that all the partner states honour the distribution made by the Technical Committee of BBMB in which Rajasthan is also represented and deliver the correct supplies at various control points.

Disabled Children

2714. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of disabled children attending schools in comparison to ordinary children;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to encourage disabled children to attend schools;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide special facilities to disabled children, who use wheel chairs and are suffering from various other forms of disability; and