

mechanical exchanges by electronic exchanges,

- (ii) introduction of pulse code modulation are digital microwave systems;
- (iii) ducting of cables; and
- (iv) replacements of worn out external plants.

A special Focus Committee under the Chairmanship of the Finance Minister of the State Government has also been set up to suggest further measures for improvement during the next Plan period.

#### **Implementation of Sen Committee's Recommendations**

284. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the steps taken to implement the Sen Committee's recommendations for agricultural development in the Eastern States?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): Report of Dr. S.R. Sen Committee on Agricultural Productivity in Eastern India was submitted to Reserve Bank of India in December 1984. Main spear-heads of development for Eastern states as recommended by the Committee inter-alia included massive provision of tube wells, pumps, controlled use of irrigation, appropriate water management techniques, adequate drainage net work, micro watershed development, orientation of input services and extension support to small and marginal farmers, land reforms, revitalisation of credit and cooperative institutions etc. The Committee also worked out a rough estimate of Public outlays and needs of credit to provide a broad indication of the magnitude of efforts required for implementation of the recommended programmes.

The recommendations of the Committee were considered at a Conference of Chief Ministers of Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal held at Patna on 8th January, 1986, under the Chairmanship of the then Union Agriculture Minister. Since Agriculture is a State subject, the concerned State governments were advised to implement the recommendations as part of the State Plan Programmes for which funds are available under State/Central Schemes keeping in view their relative priorities. The States were also called upon to improve the quality of agricultural management, fullutilisation of resources available under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and enforce credit discipline to double the supply of credit from the banking system. The states agreed to incorporate the recommendations of the Committee in their State Plans.

In response to the follow-up action initiated by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, the information received so far reveals that many of the recommendations of the Committee are by and large included in their various on-going and new programmes.

#### **Release of Postal Stamp of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in 1990**

285. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to release a special postal stamp on the occasion of birth centenary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in 1990; and

(b) if so, the time bound action proposed by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) No Sir, 2 stamps have already been issued to commemorate reserved memory of Dr.