

made of its impact on the international public opinion; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India maintains a dialogue with concerned countries on the issue of violations of rights of Fijians, including those of Indian origin, arising from the denial of their democratic right.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of India has consistently taken up the matter in appropriate international fora. These include the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings at Vancouver in October 1987 and in Kuala Lumpur in October 1989; the three sessions of the United Nations General Assembly since October, 1987 and the Non-Aligned Summit at Belgrade in September, 1989.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) International awareness of the systematic attempts to institutionalize racial discrimination in Fiji is growing. Public opinion has been articulated in various international gatherings, official and unofficial, and has also found expression in Press articles and editorials. It may also be noted that Fiji has not so far, been readmitted to the Commonwealth.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections in Kanpur

1631. SHRI KESHRI LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in the waiting list for telephone connection in Kanpur till 31 January 1990;

(b) by what time they are likely to get telephone connections;

(c) the actions proposed for speedy disposal of the waiting list.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) 9367 applicants are on the waiting list for Telephones at Kanpur till 31.1.1990.

(b) The persons on the waiting list at present are likely to be provided with telephone connections progressively by the middle of 8th Five Year Plan.

(c) For this purpose, new electronic telephone exchanges are planned to be commissioned;

10,000 lines Electronic Exchange at Mall Road, Kanpur 5,000 lines at Kidwainagar and 2,000 lines at Kalyanpur.

Provision of Drinking Water for Cattle Under Desert Development Programme

1632. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of funds for the schemes to provide drinking water for cattle under the Desert Development Programme;

(b) whether there is a proposal to instal tubewells for making available water in such areas where surface water is not available;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government of Rajasthan has request for financial assistance to instal tubewells in such areas under the Desert Development Programme; and

(e) the time by which the requisite amount is proposed to be provided to Rajasthan Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Under the Desert Development Programme (DDP), schemes for conservation and storage of rain water in the form of ponds, tanks, etc. are taken up which also provide drinking water to the cattle besides serving the objectives of ecological restoration. For meeting the drinking water needs of both human and cattle population, the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme is in operation in the areas covered under the DDP. Under this programme 5% of the Plan allocation is earmarked for supply of drinking water to areas suffering from chronic shortage of water due to extreme hot and cold ecosystems. The allocation under this programme in the five States of Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan covered under the DDP is Rs. 16.44 crore for 1989-90.

(b) and (c). Under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and the State Sector Minimum Need Programme, drinking water is made available through bore wells or tubewells where surface water is not available.

(d) and (e). No fresh proposal has been received from the Government of Rajasthan for financial assistance to install tubewells in such areas as sinking of tubewells has not been made eligible for such assistance under the Desert Development Programme. However, the State Government had been advised in the past to seek such assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

Irregularities in Payment of Pension to Freedom Fighters

1633. **SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities in the payment of pension to freedom fighters have come to the notice of Government;

(b) whether representations have also been received in regard to irregularities in payment of pension to freedom fighters from Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) to (c). The Distt. Treasury officers are responsible for making payment of pension to the freedom fighters on receipt of pension payment orders from the respective Accountants General. No representation about the irregularities in the payment has been received in this Ministry.

Widening of National Highway No. 1 Between Murthal and Ambala

1634. **SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the contract awarded for widening of National Highway No. 1 between Murthal and Ambala (Haryana), the length of the road widened and the length of the road where the earth and gravel work has been completed, separately;

(b) whether construction work on the road has been held up for the last two years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and