

(b) if so, to what extent the scheme was successful;

(c) the names of the States where the dryland farming scheme has shown good results; and

(d) whether Government propose to introduce the dryland farming scheme in all districts of Karnataka?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIDEVI LAL): (a) and (b). The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture has been under implementation in Bijapur District of Karnataka since 1986-87. The Scheme has made good progress in the district and as a result productivity of dryland crops has shown increases of varying degrees.

(c) The Scheme of National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture has shown good result in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

(d) The districts are identified as per guidelines/ criteria set under the scheme. In Karnataka, the Scheme is being implemented in 13 districts.

Setting up of Packet Switched Data Network

1705. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up packet switched data network nodes in major cities;

(b) if so, whether any plan has been prepared; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the cities where this will be set up in the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It has been planned to establish a Packet Switched Data Network in the country. Initially, the network is planned to cover 8 cities namely; Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Pune and later extended to other centres. The time frame for setting up the network is subject to availability of Packet Switching equipment.

Acceptance of India's Invitation by Dr. Nelson Mandela

1706. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the African National Congress leader Dr. Nelson Mandela has accepted the invitation to visit India; and

(b) if so, whether any date has been indicated by him for the said visit?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Dr. Mandela has asked his National Reception Committee to fix early dates for his visit to India. No dates have as yet been finalised.