

the Postal Services will be kept in view while working out the details of the amendments.

Indian Telegraph Act

(a) to (c). Provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act in this regard are being reviewed. The proposals, however, have not yet been finalised. Further action will be taken on the basis of the review

Rural Telecom Projects

1778. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Realignment of priorities urged" appearing in "Business Standard" dated 8 February, 1990, and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in regard to rural telecom facility?

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

(b) It has been planned to complete provision of phone facility in all the inhabited hexagons of 5 Km. side, numbering about 50540, by March, 1992. This will enable access to phone within 5 Km reach of all villages. The 8th Plan also envisages provision of phone facility in all the Gram Panchayats by March, 1995.

[*Translation*]

Iranian Settlers in Bihar

1779. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Govern-

ment has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bihar Ke Seemavarti Kshetron main Irani Ghuspaition Ka Sailab" appearing in "Hindustan" Patna edition dated February 6, 1990;

(b) if so, the details of such intruders; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) Yes, please.

(b) and (c). According to available information, some 54 Iranian families comprising 600 persons are presently settled at Kishanganj where they have been staying for the past about 60 years. These Iranian settlers had come there as petty nomadic traders during pre-partition days. These persons cannot be treated as infiltrators.

[*English*]

Encouragement to Agricultural Student to take up Farming

1780. SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reorganise agricultural education;

(b) whether any schemes have been drawn up to encourage agricultural students to take up farming and settle down in villages after graduation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Cashew Production in Northern India

1781. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to encourage cashew production in Northern India as is being done in Southern India;

(b) if so, the scheme being formulated by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to constitute a Board to encourage cashew production in Northern India?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India is already implementing Centrally Sponsored package Programme for development of cashewnut in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tripura and Orissa.

(c) No, Sir.

[*English*]

Package Deal for Punjab

1782. SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister announced some package deal during his recent visit to Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) and (b). The major announcements made by the Prime Minister at the All Party Sadbhavna Rally held at Ludhiana on 11.1.90 were as under:-

(i) Special court would be set up for the trial of guilty of November, 1984 riots, (ii) more steps would be taken to provide compensation to the widows and other victims of the 1984 riots and the Government would ensure their rehabilitation, (iii) those who deserted in the wake of operation Blue Star would be rehabilitated in Public Sector Undertakings, (iv) the cases of persons detained would be reviewed, (v) A judicial enquiry would be held into the death of Shri Jagdev Singh Khudian, Akali Dal, M.P., (vi) prisoners who are languishing in Jail for minor offences would be released, (vii) a separate Ministry for small industries would be created, (viii) instructions would be given for announcement of enhanced prices for agricultural produce taking into account the increase in general prices.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Talks with Bangladesh to Release of Properties

1783. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any talks with Government of Bangladesh to release the property of Indians confiscated by that country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and