

**Atrocities Committed on Minority
Communities in Pakistan**

961. SHRI LARANG SAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Hindus being persecuted in Pakistan' appearing in the Times of India dated February 4, 1991; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken to take up the matter with Pakistan Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is the duty of the Government of Pakistan to protect the rights of all its citizens, including of those belonging to the minority communities.

Government are of the view that in terms of the Simla Agreement neither India nor Pakistan should interfere in each other's internal affairs.

[English]

**Development of Kandhi Area and
Kandhi Canal Project**

962. SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance has been provided by the World Bank and the Union Government for the development of the Kandhi area and Kandhi Canal Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of work completed on the

Kandhi Canal Project;

(d) whether the construction of this canal project has been held up for the last one and a half years; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) An assistance of \$ 165 million for World Bank has been agreed for Punjab Irrigation and Drainage Project which included works in Kandhi Area.

(c) The work on Kandi Canal Stage-I upto Hoshiarpur is likely to be completed during the VIII Plan period subject to availability of funds.

(d) and (e). Kandi Canal upto 23 Kms. has already been completed. Water is being supplied through direct outlets upto 10 Kms. Water will be supplied in the reach from 10 KM to 23 KM after Command area development in this portion is completed. As already stated above the work on Kandi Canal Stage-I is likely to be completed during the VIII Plan period, subject to availability of funds.

**Opening of Public Call Offices in
Giridih**

963. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open PCOs at Bengabad, Ganwan, Tisari, Birni, Deori, Mandro, Chatro, Siyatanr, Nawdiha, Charghara, Chotaki Kharagdiha, Budhudih, Parbatpur, Ahilyapur Gumo-Telaiya, Basodih, Bharajo in the districts of Giridih and Hazaribagh, Bihar; and

(b) the time by which the telephone