

released till end February, 1987 is Rs. 3.78 lakhs.

#### Rise in Government Expenditure

2255. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :  
SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Institute of Economic Studies, New Delhi has submitted a note expressing concern at the rise in Central Government expenditure to almost 21 per cent of the GNP;

(b) the reasons for the sharp rise in Government expenditure as compared to the GNP; and

(c) the steps taken if any, or proposed to be taken for controlling the Government expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The increase in expenditure is both on account of progressive steps up in Plan expenditure and also increase in non-Plan expenditure especially on Defence, interest payments and subsidies. The increase in 1986-87 (R.E) in non-Plan expenditure is additionally due to the impact of Pay Commission's recommendations.

Government are continuously making efforts to reduce the non-productive expenditure. The Prime Minister, while presenting the Central Government Budget for 1987-88, has announced in Parliament the constitution of a Cabinet Committee on Expenditure to monitor the implementation of various measures which the Government propose to take in this regard.

#### Regional Rural Banks in Punjab

2256. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY :  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of districts in Punjab

covered by the Regional Rural Banks as on 31 December, 1986;

(b) whether any programme to cover more districts by the Regional Rural Banks has been formulated :

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The five regional rural banks functioning in Punjab as on the 31.12.1986 cover the following ten out of 12 districts in that state :

Ropar, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala, Ferozpur, Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Sangrur, Patiala, Faridkot and Bhatinda.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

#### Indigenous System of Digital Exchanges

2257. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :  
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether C-DOT has undertaken to provide in India an indigenous system of digital exchanges in three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the progress made so far; and

(c) whether experience of some other countries in having this project has been disappointing; if so, whether a study has been made and precautions taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. C-DOT is developing indigenous digital electronic switching system which will be delivered for field trials in three years.