

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement; and

(c) its effect on the navigation in West Bengal?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE):** (a) At the end of the ministerial level talks held in Dacca from 15-18 April 1977, an understanding was reached on elements of a possible agreement between the two countries on this question;

(b) The details of the agreement are still being worked out in official level negotiations between the two countries. In the negotiations held in Delhi from May, 7-11-1977, at the level of officials, considerable ground was covered in an attempt to reach such an agreement;

(c) The Farakka barrage has been constructed with a view to improving the navigability of the Hooghly river for preserving the Port of Calcutta. This aspect has been fully taken into account in the negotiations so far held on this issue.

#### India's Membership of INTELSAT

**661. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether our country is a member of INTELSAT; and

(b) the advantages for being in that organisation?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FER-NANDES):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) INTELSAT—International Telecommunication Satellite Organization is a commercial organization with its headquarters in Washington, U.S.A., set up for placing satellites into orbit for providing communication facilities. INTELSAT has satellites positioned over the Atlantic,

Pacific and Indian Oceans. India can see and communicate via the Indian Ocean satellite which also is seen by all countries of Europe, Africa and Asia as also Australia. 99 per cent of India's international telephone traffic is now handled via the INTELSAT satellite.

As on 1st March, 1977, INTELSAT had 95 members. Being a member, India has capital investment in INTELSAT which as on 31-3-1977, was of the order of Rs. 1.2 crores. On this, India gets a return of 14 per cent. Further, India has access to all the technical documentation which is useful for building up knowledge in the area of satellite communications. India is also on the international bidders' list of INTELSAT for supply of equipment.

#### Minimum wages for farm labour

**662. SHRI S. G. MURUGAIYAN:** Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have not implemented yet the laws for payment of minimum wages for farm labour; and

(b) the measures being taken for their speedy implementation?

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA):** (a) Statement I showing the latest position in the matter is laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-363/77).

(b) The enforcement of such minimum wages fall predominantly in the State sphere. State Governments have been advised from time to time take effective steps for implementing the notified minimum wages. Statement II showing the steps taken by the State Governments is laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-363/77).