

procurement, movement and distribution of fertilizers. Besides, regular monitoring, the arrangements for supply are periodically reviewed in supply Review and Inter-Ministerial meetings, held weekly during the peak consumption months, and wherein representatives of State Governments, canalising agencies and Ministries of Railways and Surface Transport are also associated.

[English]

STD Facility to Haldibari

59. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of demerits of the STD link of Haldibari through Mekhliganj;

(b) the number of demands received by Government from public and Members of Parliament for providing STD link to Haldibari through Jalpaiguri during the last three years;

(c) the reasons due to which the STD link to Haldibari could not be provided through Jalpaiguri till date, and

(d) by when the same is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir, because there are no demerits

(b) Demand for providing STD link to Haldibari through Jalpaiguri was received from Hon'ble M.P. (LS) himself vide his letters dated 26.8.95 & 13.9.95 addressed to the then Hon'ble MOS(C). No such demand from public has been received.

(c) The STD at Haldibari has been provided through Jalpaiguri via Mekhliganj its "Short Distance Charging Centre" on the basis of principle of SDCC Concept

(d) Does not arise as the STD service at Haldibari is working smoothly.

OBC Representation in IAS and IPS

60. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the existing percentage of representation of backward classes in the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service,

(b) the total number of officers under each of the above cadres in the country;

(c) the number of posts reserved for the backward classes in the above cadres lying vacant;

(d) the efforts made by the Government to fill up these vacant posts;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to provide reservation in promotions to the employees belonging to OBC;

(f) If so, the details thereof; and

(g) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) In the direct recruitment to the Indian Administrative Service and the Indian Police Service, 27% reservation in recruitment has been provided for candidates belonging to the O.B.C.

(b) the total number of officers in position as on 1.1.1996 are as follows :

I.A.S.	-	5047
I.P.S.	-	2947

(c) Nil.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) This will be examined.

(f) and (g). The I.A.S. and I.P.S. are the highest category of Group 'A' Services. Reservation is provided for the OBC at the stage of initial recruitment only. As IAS/IPS are the highest category of Civil Services/All India Services, and as promotion in these services are strictly by the criteria of merit and suitability with due regard to seniority, Government have taken a decision not to provide for reservation in promotion in these Services.

[English]

Assam Problems

61. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided/is considering initiation of dialogue with insurgent groups in Assam viz ULFA, NSCN, Bodo Security Forces etc to solve the Assam problems, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b). The Government of India believes in solution of problems through talks and negotiations to bring about peace, stability and development. The Government of India is prepared for talks with any group which is willing to work within the framework of the Constitution of India and abjure violence. No talks have been initiated with the terrorist outfits operating in Assam, as they have not indicated their willingness for talks within the

above parameters and are continuing with violence. The Government of India is against all manifestations of violence.

Infectious Diseases

62. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether infectious disease which were supposed to have been eradicated are threatening to strike back again in much more severe and fatal forms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the precautionary measures taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). The gradual change in ecological conditions resulting from developmental activities, coupled with emergence of drug resistant strains of parasites have led to the resurgence of infectious diseases like malaria kala-azar and Japanese encephalitis.

(c) A National Apical Advisory Committee (NAAC) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Health Secretary to formulate a nation wide disease surveillance network. The action points envisaged under the disease surveillance scheme are collection and flow of information, strengthening of laboratory diagnostic services, networking of centres and continuous monitoring of disease prevalence.

[Translation]

Freedom Fighter Pension

63. SHRI LALIT ORAON
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the number of cases of Bihar and Maharashtra States "Swatantrata Senani Samman Pension" scheme lying pending with the Central Government which were duly recommended and sent by the State Governments; and

(b) the time by which these applications are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) and (b) All the claims for grant of freedom fighters pension received through State Govts. of Bihar & Maharashtra have already been examined and suitable communication in each case has been sent. However, aggrieved with the

decision of the Government regarding rejection of the claims because of their not satisfying one or the other eligibility conditions, the applicants keep on sending review petitions/representations for reconsideration of their claims. As examination and disposal of such review petitions is a continuous process, it is difficult to lay down any definite time schedule for their disposal.

Mother Dairy Milk Prices

64. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a steep hike in the price of toned milk being supplied by the Mother Dairy recently;

(b) if so, the extent of hike made in the prices thereof alongwith reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of times the prices were hiked during the last six months indicating the extent of hike made in the prices each time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) to (c) Mother Dairy increased the consumer price of toned milk w e f 8 5 96 as under :

Consumer Price of Toned Milk per litre

	Prior to Revision	After Revision
Through bulk vending	Rs 9/-	Rs 11/-
In polypacks	Rs 10/-	Rs 12/-

The price increase was on account of higher prices being paid to farmers for the procurement of raw milk from them. The immediate previous price revision of toned milk was effected in May '95. The price of full cream milk was increased from Rs. 14 to Rs. 15 w e f 15 2 1996.

[English]

Waiting List for Telephones

65. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants in the waiting list for telephones in Allahabad district under each of the categories as on April 1, 1996, and

(b) the number of connections under each of the categories that are likely to be given during 1996-97?