

**Pending Applications for Telephone Connections at Bahraich**

2357. SHRI B. R. SHUKLA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of applications for Telephone connection in the city of Bahraich are pending in the Department and, if so, since when ; and

(b) whether it is likely that ~~these~~ applicants will be given telephone connections without undue delay ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) 77 applications for telephone connections are at present on the waiting list in Bahraich, the oldest of them being from 15-6-1965.

(b) The connections will be given to the extent underground cables is completed.

**Financial Assistance to Kerala during Fourth Plan**

2358. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the financial aid likely to be given to the Kerala State during the Fourth Plan for developing the backward areas ;

(b) whether any request has been made by the State Government in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) (a) An amount of Rs. 175 crores has been allocated to Kerala State by way of Central assistance for the Fourth Five Year Plan on the basis of the objective criteria laid down by the Committee of Chief Ministers appointed in that behalf by the National Development Council. This amount together with Rs 83.35 crores which the State Government is likely to find from its own resources, constitutes the approved outlay for the development programmes of Kerala State during the Fourth Five Year Plan period including the backward areas in the State. No amount out of

the amount of Rs. 175 crores mentioned above has been separately indicated to be the aid for development of the backward areas of Kerala.

(b) and (c). No request has been specifically made for additional assistance for developing the backward areas of Kerala. The Government of Kerala appointed a special Committee on Unemployment. This Committee has produced a Report containing a number of recommendations for new outlays over a wide range of economic activity of the State. The Planning Commission on its own initiative is engaged in a close examination of the recommendations in conjunction with the Kerala Government. No request for any specific additional sum for any additional scheme outside the Fourth Plan has been received from the Government of Kerala.

**Indians killed as a result of Pak shelling in 24-Pargannas District (West Bengal)**

2359. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item in the *National Herald* dated the 30th May, 1971 that two Indians were killed and several others injured when Pakistani shells fell into the border village of Ghoja Danga in 24-Parganas District of West Bengal on the 29th May, 1971 ;

(b) whether Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the result thereof and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. On 29th May, 1971, Pakistani troops opened mortar fire from their outpost at Bhomra in East Bengal. They also fired a few rounds of 25 pounders. About 20 mortar bombs fell near the Indian border out-post of Ghoja Dhanga. Stray bullets from small arms and a few 25 pounder shells also fell inside Indian territory. B.S.F. effectively returned the fire and silenced the Pakistani firing. Two Indian nationals were killed in this incident.