

(b) Constituency-wise details of development programmes are not available in the Planning Commission.

#### Backward area in Kerala

1488. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of villages and Taluquas in the State of, Kerala included in the backward area list of Planning Commission prepared by the officers, is a correct analysis of the situation ;

(b) whether most of the chronically flood affected areas have not been included in that list ; and

(c) if so, whether Government would examine the situation in consultation with the respective Members of Parliament from Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) The State Governments are competent to identify their backward areas and to take measure for their improvement. They have also got adequate administrative arrangements for the purpose. The Planning Commission, which obtained information from the various States, including Kerala, regarding backward areas in each of the States, did not therefore have to take up an examination as to the correctness of the lists prepared by the State Governments. To ensure that the State Governments took all the relevant factors into account in identifying their backward areas and also in order to have uniform standards in this regard all over the country, the Planning Commission indicated to the State Governments a set of fifteen indices to be followed by them. The question as to whether in the view of the Planning Commission the selection of backward areas by the State Governments has been done correctly, does not arise.

(b) The indices used in identifying the backward areas on the basis of levels of development reached by them, are themselves indicative of the effect of the various human, economic and geo-physical factors which have a bearing on the levels of development reached in the various areas of the

country. The effect of proneness to frequent floods or similar other geo-physical factors are necessarily reflected in the state of development indicated by the set of indices referred to above. If, therefore, certain areas of Kerala are chronically flood-affected and are thereby rendered backward, the economic indices would reflect this position and the areas would be classed as backward. The question of investigation by the Planning Commission as to whether the areas which are chronically flood-affected have been included in the list of backward areas, does not arise.

(c) The State Government will no doubt appreciate any assistance that the Hon. Members of Parliament from Kerala may offer to that Government in this regard.

#### Curtailment of Funds allocated to Kerala for Fourth Five Year Plan

1489. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount allocated for the Five Year Plan for the State of Kerala has been curtailed ; if so the reasons therefor ; and

(b) whether Government of Kerala have sent a protest note in this regard ; if so, the contents thereof ; and the reaction of Central Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No protest note of the nature has been sent by the Government of Kerala nor, in view of the reply to part (a) of the question, would there be an occasion for protest.

#### Supply of Iron and Steel to Small Scale Industries in Kerala

1490. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to supply iron and steel to the small-scale in-

dustries in the State of Kerala at controlled price.]

(b) whether Government have received any memorandum from the small scale industries in this regard ; and

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

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD)**

(a) The prices and distribution of iron and steel from indigenous productions are regulated by the Joint Plant Committee and the Steel Priority Committee. The supply of iron and steel items against allocations made by the Steel Priority Committee is being made already to small scale industries all over the country including Kerala.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Indo-Bangladesh Postal, Telegraphic and Telephonic Services**

1491. SHRI B. V. NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether direct postal, telephonic and telegraphic services between India and Bangala Desh have been or are being established ;

(b) if so, the main features in this regard, and

(c) the extent of additional expenditure to be incurred on this account annually ?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) :** (a)

(a) *Postal Services*

Yes, except in regard to parcels, insured services and money orders.

*Telecommunications Service*

Yes.

(b) *Postal Services*

Surface mails are being exchanged with the Bangla Desh Post at convenient points on the West Bengal, Meghalaya and Tripura borders. Airmails are being forwarded direct to Dacca.

For the present under reciprocal arrangements, inland rates of postage are being applied for mails for Bangla Desh.

*Telecommunications Services*

Calcutta has been linked by adequate telephones circuits with Dacca, Kushtia and Chittagong. Delhi has been provided with direct trunk to Dacca. Jalpaiguri has been linked with Saidpur and Agartala with Akhaura.

A telegraph circuit has been provided between Calcutta and Dacca. Intex service has also been established.

(c) *Postal Services*

There is no additional expenditure involved in the handling of our mails for Bangla Desh as compared to domestic mails.

*Telecommunications Services*

For establishment of Telecommunication service and for assisting Bangla Desh to restore their communication links till February, 1972, the approximate expenditure incurred was Rs. 3.15 lakhs. Annual recurring expenditure will be very nominal towards the cost of maintenance of communication circuits within Indian territory which would be more than off set by the revenue collected out of trunk calls and telegrams.

**Payment of Privy Purses to former Rulers after their Abolition**

1492. SHRI B. V. NAIK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether privy purses amount has been paid to some of the former Rulers/Princes of Indian States even after their privy purses and privileges had been abolished ;

(b) the total amount so paid to former