

(c) and (d). Details of cost etc. will be known after the project report is prepared. Final decision regarding the implementation of the Project will then be taken after considering the project report.

**Libellous Assertions about certain  
Parts of India**

438. SHRI MAYAVAN :  
SHRI NARAYANAN :  
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :  
SHRI CHENGALRAYA  
NAIDU :  
SHRI RANJEET SINGH :  
SHRI DHANDAPANI :  
SHRI SAMINATHAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has examined letters written by some M.P's containing extracts from a "Purported Pamphlets" published in 1967 containing certain fairly tendentious, false and slanted assertions about certain parts of India ;

(b) if so, the details of the examination ; and

(c) the action which has been taken against the persons held responsible ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of DRVN have denied having published any such pamphlet. Enquiries made by our Consulate General in Hanoi have not established any evidence of such a pamphlet having been published in Hanoi.

(c) Does not arise.

**Exchange of Letters among Prime  
Ministers of India, U. S. S. R.  
and Pakistan President**

439. SHRI NARAYANAN :  
SHRI MAYAVAN :  
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :  
SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :  
SHRI DHANDAPANI :  
SHRI SAMINATHAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the U. S. S. R Prime Minister had written a letter to the Indian Prime Minister on the occasion of the Fourth Anniversary of the Tashkent Declaration ;

(b) if so, the contents thereof ;

(c) whether the Prime Minister of India also wrote to the U. S. S. R. Prime Minister and President of Pakistan ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) whether any reply was received from President of Pakistan ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The text of the letter is placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2593/70*]

(c) to (e). The texts of the messages from the Prime Minister to Chairman Kosygin and President Yahya Khan and of the latter's reply are also placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2593/70*]

**Criteria for Selection of Industrially  
Backward Districts**

440. SHRI MAYAVAN :  
SHRI NARAYANAN :  
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :  
SHRI CHENGALRAYA  
NAIDU :  
SHRI DHANDAPANI :  
SHRI SAMINATHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has laid down the criteria to be adopted for the selection of industrially backward Districts in consultation with the financial institutions and the States ;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission had already addressed to the State Governments in the matter ; and

(c) if so, the final decision taken in this regard ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) The Planning Commission, in consultation with the financial institutions, has