

(c) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the State Governments of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Telephone Bill Arrears

552. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of arrears of telephone bills pending for payment by the State/U.T. Governments for the last three years till date; and

(b) the steps being taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The total accumulated arrears of telephone bills pending for payment by State/U.T. Governments for the last three years are as under:

As on		Rs.
31-3-96		150.23 Crores
31-3-97		164.26 Crores
31-3-98		175.89 Crores
31-7-98		191.35 Crores

(b) (i) Telephone bills are payable within 15 days from the date of issue of bills. In case of non-payment by the pay-by-date, i.e. a 15+6 day grace period, a surcharge at prescribed rates is levied.

(ii) A disconnection list is prepared for subscribers from whom payments have not been received. Telephone reminders are given to subscribers for making payment, and registered notices issued to the defaulting subscribers of non-electronic exchanges. In the case of electronic exchanges, the facility for making outgoing calls are first withdrawn from the subscriber for 15 days. If even after the above exercise, no payment is received, the telephone of the subscriber is to be disconnected by the 42nd day after the date of issue of the bill. The matter is pursued through visits to subscribers by telephone inspectors etc. and taking up with higher authorities through letters. In the event of non-payment finally, the subscriber's other phones are also liable for disconnection under the Indian Telegraph Rules 443.

[Translation]

#### Production of Paddy

553. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of paddy is more than the target fixed for it during the current year due to sufficient rain;

(b) if so, the target fixed for paddy production during the current year; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to procure paddy from farmers and the details of purchase made in various regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The rice production target (provisional) for 1998-99 is as under:

(Million Tonnes)

Season	Target	Likely Achievement
Kharif	73.20	71.7
Rabi	11.00	Season in progress
Total	84.20	71.7*

\* Excluding Rabi crop

The kharif rice production is likely to fall short of its target by about 1.5 million tonnes due to erratic monsoon, pre-winter rains and floods in several parts of the country.

(c) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 1998-99 for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of common grade of paddy has been announced at Rs. 440 and that of grade 'A' variety at Rs. 470 per quintal marking an increase of about 6% over the last year's MSPs. Elaborate arrangements have been made by public procuring agencies to buy rice/paddy for the central pool at the MSPs announced by the government. The details of region-wise procurement of rice are given in the attached statement.

#### Statement

*Region-wise Progressive Procurement of Kharif Rice During 1998-99 Marketing Season (As on 27-11-98)*

(Figure in Tonnes)

States/U.Ts	Total Progressive Procurement in Terms of Rice
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	216148
Haryana	78001
Madhya Pradesh	6995

1	2
Maharashtra	8
Orissa	21191
Punjab	3935801
Rajasthan	350
Uttar Pradesh	40950
Chandigarh	5282
Delhi	99
Pondicherry	527
Total	4305352

[English]

#### United Nations Population Fund

554. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- the number of adolescents and elderly persons in the country as per recent report of the United Nations Population Fund;
- the steps being taken to create more jobs to accommodate young workers to reduce unemployment; and
- the measures taken to provide social security and adequate medical facilities to elderly persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) United Nations Population Fund publication "The State of World Population—The New Generations" 1998 does not indicate the number of adolescents and elderly persons in India. However, in the Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections published by the Registrar General of India in 1996 the number of adolescents (10-19 years) and elderly population (65 years and above) as on 1st March 1998 have been estimated to be 213.8 million and 42.2 million respectively.

(b) One of the primary objective of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and under employment.

(c) In order to provide social security and to improve the quality of life of elderly people various measures including contributory and non-contributory pension, affordable health care services to meet the health needs, affordable shelter etc. are being taken up during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

#### Extradition Treaty

555. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- whether India and Germany have finalised an Extradition Treaty;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the time by which this treaty is likely to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The text of an Extradition Treaty between India and Germany is being negotiated and is expected to be signed at the earliest mutually convenient period on completion of requisite formalities by both Governments.

[English]

#### Funds for Drip Irrigation Scheme

556. SHRIDILEEPSANGHANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- the amount allocated to the State Government of Gujarat for drip irrigation scheme during each of the last three years till date;
- whether the State Government have asked for increase in the amount;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether any report has been submitted by the State Government in regard to utilization of the funds allocated;
- whether the State Government have informed the Union Government regarding the drought conditions of the area; and
- if so, the details thereof alongwith the additional amount demanded by the State Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Government of Gujarat was allocated amounts of Rs. 154.40 lakhs, Rs. 24.80 lakhs and Rs. 216.00 lakhs towards the drip irrigation component under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Use of Plastics in Agriculture" during the Years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 respectively.

(b) to (d) During the year 1997-98, the Government of Gujarat requested for an amount of Rs. 292.00 lakhs. After taking into consideration, the unspent balance available with the State Government, an amount of Rs. 98.84 lakhs was provided to the State Government for the drip irrigation components. The State Government have reported an expenditure of Rs. 117.00 lakhs under the Plasticulture Scheme during 1997-98.

- No, Sir.
- Does not arise.

#### Review of Plan Panel

557. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: