

(c) the assistance provided to fruit processing units in Bihar during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not set up food processing industries on its own or with foreign collaboration. The Ministry provides financial assistance through its plan schemes, for creation/upgradation of infrastructural and processing facilities for a variety of processed foods including processed fruit products. These schemes are not state or location-specific.

During the last three years (from 1995-96 to date), Ministry of Food Processing Industries has provided assistance to the tune of Rs. 9.92 lakhs for setting up of four Food Processing and Training Centres in Bihar.

[English]

Sea Wall

1608. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has sought any Central assistance from the Union Government to construct Sea Wall at Paradeep and other coastal areas affected by sea erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) In response to a request from the Government of Orissa for coastal protection against sea erosion at Balasore, Kendrapara, Puri and Ganjam districts costing Rs. 263.50 crore, Planning Commission during 1997-98 had sanctioned Rs.4.54 crore as a one time additional central assistance. The proposal from the Government of Orissa did not include specifically schemes for construction of Sea Wall at Paradeep.

[Translation]

Construction of Canals

1609. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that lakhs of farmers of Ambala region (Haryana) are facing great difficulties due to non-availability of canals in the region for irrigation purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to construct some more canals in the region during the Ninth Five Year Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

Government of Haryana has informed that sufficient irrigation facilities have been provided to the farmers of Ambala region.

(c) and (d) Irrigation is a State subject and responsibility for implementing, planning, financing, monitoring of all irrigation projects rests with the concerned State Government.

[English]

Indian Assistance to Maldives

1610. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

SHRI S.S. OWAISI:

Will the Minister of External Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maldives have sought some specific assistance in education field during the current year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and assistance provided by Indian Government to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) the Government of India has assisting the Government of Maldives in the field of Education under various technical assistance and scholarship schemes as part of the ongoing process of cooperation between the two countries. India has been offering educational facilities to Maldivian candidates in different areas such as medicine, engineering, computer science, nursing and agriculture.

Telephone Exchanges in Chandigarh

1611. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchange functioning in the Union Territory of Chandigarh during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges during 1998-99;

(c) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(d) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections at present; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a)	Year	No. of exchanges
	1995-96	13
	1996-97	15
	1997-98	14
	1.4.98 to 31.10.98	14
(b)	No, Sir.	