

(c) to (f) Government is not aware of existence of such clubs.

Telephone Advisory Committee

1746. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telephone Advisory Committee has been constituted in Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the date on which it was constituted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which this committee is likely to be constituted?

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

(a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Telephone Advisory Committee (TAC) for Mandi Telecom District comprises Kullu District at present. Consequent upon upgradation of Kullu SSA to be headed by a TDM, a separate TAC for Kullu Telecom District is being constituted.

[English]

Irrigation Management

1747. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry of Water Resources has submitted Ninth Plan strategy for participatory Irrigation Management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has agreed to the proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) and (b) Ministry of Water Resources in their original proposal for Ninth Five Year Plan had proposed Rs. 118.00 crore for a new scheme on Participatory Irrigation Management for those irrigation projects which are not covered under existing Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme.

(c) to (e) The Ninth Plan is yet to be finalised and therefore sectoral investments are still to be firmed up.

Sir Creek Issue

1748. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks between India and Pakistan regarding Sir Creek dispute was held recently;

(b) if so, the issues involved in the dispute between both the countries; and

(c) the outcome of the talks held to settle the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) As part of the composite dialogue process, India and Pakistan held talks on the Sir Creek Issue in New Delhi on 9th November, 1998. During these discussions, Government proposed that as the boundary in the area had already been accepted as settled by both India and Pakistan, this already settled and demarcated boundary should be formalised. Government further proposed that pending formalisation of the boundary in the Sir Creek, delimitation of the India-Pakistan maritime boundary from seawards by commencing at the Exclusive Economic Zone limit and proceeding landwards could be considered. It has been agreed to continue discussions on the subject.

SAARC Summit

1749. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the response of the different SAARC member countries to the Prime Minister's proposal for an ASEAN type body for the SAARC countries as a step towards a Nuclear Weapon Free World mooted at the SAARC Summit at Colombo in July, 1998; and

(b) the steps taken in pursuance of the said objective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) There is no proposal made by the Prime Minister for an ASEAN type body for the SAARC Countries as a step towards a Nuclear Weapons Free World. There is, however, a proposal for establishing a Free Trade Area In South Asia (SAFTA) which has been accepted by all SAARC countries. At the Colombo Summit in July 1998, all SAARC leaders agreed to commence negotiations on a Treaty for establishing SAFTA and underlined the importance of concluding the Treaty by the year 2001.

[Translation]

Price of Fertilizer

1750. SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: