

following :—

- (i) Plant Breeders' Right
- (ii) Seed production and Distribution
- (iii) Role of Public and Private Sector in production of seeds
- (iv) Import and Export of seeds and planting materials
- (v) Release of good variety of seeds
- (vi) Quality Control and Seed Legislation
- (vii) Foreign Investment in the seed sector
- (viii) Plant Quarantine measures for import of seeds and planting material.

In the portion relating to legislation, there is a recommendation to amend certain provision of the Seeds Act, 1966 to make it more stringent.

(c) and (d) Many of the recommendations of the Group relate to protection of breeders' rights and germplasm in the country. The proposed Plant Variety Protection and Farmer's Rights Protection legislation will address itself to these issues.

#### **Direct Local Call Facility**

2724. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE : Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Faridabad has been linked with Noida and Ghaziabad, whereas Gurgaon has been left out;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to link Gurgaon with Ghaziabad, Noida and Bahadurgarh;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):  
(a) and (b) Faridabad has local call facility at 180 sec.

pulse rate (i.e. Inter dialling without STD code) with Noida and Ghaziabad. However Gurgaon is only linked with STD.

—As per policy local call facility is provided within a Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) which generally corresponds to a Teshil. However local call facility at 180 sec. pulse rate (i.e. Inter dialling with out STD code) is provided

(i) **Between adjacent SDCAs**

(ii) **When the radial distance between Short Distance Charging Centres (SDCCs) of two SDCAs is upto 20 Kms.**

This facility therefore has been provided between Faridabad SDCA and Ghaziabad (including Noida) SDCA which are adjacent. The facility between Gurgaon SDCA and Ghaziabad (including Noida) SDCA is not provided as both the SDCAs are non-adjacent and the radial distance between their SDCCs is more than 20 Kms.

(c) No Sir, there is no proposal to provide local call facility at 180 sec. pulse rate (i.e. Inter dialling without STD code) between Gurgaon Ghaziabad (including Noida) or Gurgaon Bahadurgarh.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c).

(e) As explained at (a) & (b).

[*Translation*]

#### **Fund to Bihar under MPLADS**

2725. SHRI SOM MARANDI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been proper compliance of prescribed guidelines in the selection of the schemes in Bihar during 1996-97 and 1997-98 under MPLADS;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take against these who are responsible for such lapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) The District Collectors are required to implement the Schemes selected by the MPs concerned within the framework of

the guidelines. However, some cases of improper implementation have been brought to the notice of the Government. Whenever, such a complaint is received, the matter is referred to the State Government for taking appropriate action.

[English]

#### **International Loans to Agricultural Sector**

2726. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have confirmed the US Government's decision that the sanctions are not likely to affect international loans to agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the total amount of loan provided by the US for the development of agriculture during each of the last two years;

(c) whether the US Government is likely to provide agricultural loans to India after the sanctions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) US Government has not provided any loan for any project in the agricultural sector for the last two years in India.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal for seeking agricultural loans to India from the United States.

[Translation]

#### **Direct Local Call Facility**

2727. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from MPs and other people to directly link the areas falling under National Capital Region especially Khurja with local call facility;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Representation from NCR board. PMs Office MPs have been received to directly link the areas falling under NCR with local call facility and specially Khurja with Delhi.

(c) As per policy local call facility is provided within a Short distance charging area (SDCA) which generally corresponds to a Tehsil. However, local call facility at 180 sec. puls rate (*i.e.* Inter dialling without STD code) is provided :—

(i) Between adjacent SDCAs.

(ii) When the Radial distance between Short distance charging centres (SDCCs) of two SDCAs is upto 20 Kms. The same criteria has been applied for areas falling under National Capital Region. Since Khurja and Delhi are separate non-adjacent SDCAs with their SDCCs more than 20 kms apart, local call facility at 180 sec. pulse rate (*i.e.* Inter-dialling without STD code) has not been provided between Khurja and Delhi.

#### **Scheme for Gujarat**

2728. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approved any scheme for the development of backward areas of Gujarat during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated each year to Gujarat during the above period;

(d) the details of other schemes submitted by Gujarat Government seeking financial assistance; and

(e) the time by which the projects are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) Planning & Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission have not identified any area as backward per se. However, Central Government supplements the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for