

backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance amongst the States. Further, Special Central Assistance is allocated to various states, including Gujarat, for Special Area Programmes such as Border Area Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan etc.

(d) and (e) No proposal is pending with Planning Commission for approval.

[*English*]

#### **Draught Animal Centers**

2729. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had drawn plans to set up Animal Energy Centre in the Seventh Plan;

(b) if so, the present status thereof and the time-frame worked out therefor;

(c) whether use of Draught Animal Power (DAP) is going down in the absence of support and policy; and

(d) if so, the programmes evolved to encourage use of DAP during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) There was a plan to set up Animal Energy Centre in the Seventh Plan. However, the Centre could not be set up due to financial constraints.

(c) and (d) The number of draught animals has been increasing. As per 1987 Livestock Census, there were about 68 million Draught Animals which increased to about 73.5 million as per 1992 Livestock Census. Animal Energy Programmes to demonstrate improved animal energy devices are being supported in various States for improving utilisation of Draught Animal Power in the country.

[*Translation*]

#### **Fall in Mango**

2730. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a drastic fall in the crop of mango in Maharashtra this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Union Government to increase the production of mangoes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government have not received any report about the drastic fall in the crop of mango in Maharashtra this year. There has been less production of mango in various parts of the country which is attributed mainly to the adverse weather conditions like extended rainy season, fluctuating temperature resulting in reduced flowering and subsequent failure of pollination and pollen germination added with the pest and disease attacks.

(c) The Government is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on 'Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone Fruits' under which assistance is being provided to the State Governments for improving the production and productivity of fruits including mangoes through various measures such as supply of quality planting material, rejuvenation of senile orchards, training of farmers besides area expansion.

#### **T.V. Transmitter at Jhanjharpur**

2731. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH : Will the minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set-up a T.V. transmitter at Jhanjharpur district in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) : (a) and (b) There is no approved scheme, at present, to set up a T.V. transmitter at Jhanjharpur in Bihar.

#### **Appointment of Ambassadors**

2732. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries where Ambassadors/High Commissioners have been appointed by the Government of India;