

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURAL (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Statewise total production of Cocoa in the country during the last 3 years till September, 1998 is as under :—

State	1995-96 Qty. in Metric Tonnes	1996-97 Qty. in Metric Tonnes	1997-98 Qty. in Metric Tonnes (Provisional)
Kerala	5000	5750	6300
Karnataka	770	770	850
Tamil Nadu	20	20	37
Andhra Pradesh	420	420	650
Total	6210	6960	7837

(b) and (c) Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, Kasargodu of Kerala Agriculture University, Thrissur have come up with some improved high yielding varieties, successful commercially adoptable vegetative propagation methods, crop management technique particularly as intercrop in Coconut and Arecanut Garden.

The commercial cultivation of cocoa in India is a recent origin and it is now being cultivated in the State of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh & Tamil Nadu. Cocoa is not so far introduced in Gujarat.

Telephone Connection in Karnataka

2781. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages of Gulbarga, Bidar and Raichur district of Karnataka not given telephone connections even after depositing amount and fulfilling the required procedures;

(b) the reasons for not providing telephone connections to the long pending applications; and

(c) the time by which the said connections are likely to be provided?

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

(a) The number of such villages, is given below district-wise;

Gulbarga	—	55
Raichur	—	26
Bidar	—	40

(b) and (c) These are all long distance connections and hence cannot be served from the existing exchanges with the available technology. However, there are plans to provide these telephone connections by opening additional exchanges strategically by March, 2000.

Yeltsin Visit to India

2782. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russian President Boris Yeltsin has cancelled his scheduled visit to India in December, 1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Russia have urged India to sign the CTBT; and

(d) if so, the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. While the visit to India by His Excellency President Boris Yeltsin will not take place in December 1998, the Russian authorities have informed us that it "still stands" and has not been cancelled.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government is engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that Entry-Into-Force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September, 1999. India expects that other countries indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to this Treaty without conditions.