

(a) the year when the present foreign policy was formulated along with its basic objectives;

(b) whether the foreign policy has failed to achieve the desired objectives;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to formulate a new foreign policy; and

(d) the time by which the said policy is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) and (b) The basic principles and objectives of our foreign policy seek to preserve the country's territorial integrity, security and national identity as a plural, democratic and secular society ensuring socio-economic development of all the people with justice and equality. Since independence, our foreign policy has been based on these principles and objectives which has been marked by our independent actions and our abiding faith in non-alignment. While foreign policy by its very nature is ever changing in reaction to various changes and developments around the world that have a bearing on our policy, such formulations have always been based on these well-known principles of our foreign policy. Our basic objectives and principles of foreign policy have stood us in good stead in achieving our desired objectives.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

MPLADS

2811. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any time limit has been prescribed for the execution of work recommended by the Member of Parliament under MP Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the execution of this scheme is delayed in districts;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose to issue any guidelines for the speedy implementation of these schemes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Under extant guidelines on MPLADS, all sanctions for works should be accorded, as far as possible, within 45 days from the date of receipt of proposals from the concerned M.P.

(c) and (d) Some cases of delay in execution of MPLADS works have been reported. In such cases, the matter is taken up with the concerned District Collectors/ the State Governments.

(e) and (f) The State Governments have been requested to issue general instructions with regard to the periodic meetings to be held by the District level officers with the MPs and to evolve an effective mechanism for monitoring of implementation of the scheme at the State level.

Telephone Exchanges

2812. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI VAIKO :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning with STD/ISD facilities in Thiruvallur and Sriperumbudur district;

(b) whether Government propose to set up some new telephone exchanges with such facilities in the said districts during 1998-99;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) While Thiruvallur is a District, Sriperumbudur is a Taluk falling in Kancheepuram District.

The number of telephone exchanges functioning with STD/ISD facilities in Thiruvallur district and in

Kancheepuram district are as under:—

Kanoheepuram Tiruvallur

No. of exchanges with STD/ISD facility	42	43
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(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Kadapakkam exchange in Thiruvallur District has already been opened on 29th April, 1998 along with STD facility.

The STD facility in Amaipakkam and Chunampat exchanges in Kancheepuram District is likely to be provided by 31st March, 1999.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

[*Translation*]

Appointment of Field Staff

2813. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the communication network has been expanded during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of General Managers, Divisional Managers/Engineers, (Telephones) newly appointed after this expansion during said years;

(c) whether the field staff for maintenance of the telephone lines have also been increased in the same proposition; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The number of telephones connections in the country increased from 9.8 million to 17.8 million and the switching capacity from 12 million lines to 21.3 million during the three years from 1995-96 to 1997-98.

(b) to (d) Posts created in General Manager, Director and Divisional Engineers during last three years is given below :

Year	G.M.	Director/JAG	D.E./STS
1995-96	16	79	305
1996-97	33	50	95
1997-98	40	76	513

There has been tremendous change in technology and the field staff for maintenance is in accordance with the requirement of new technology equipments.

Extinction of Cow Species

2814. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some species of cows of Indian breeds are facing extinction has already become extinct due to their continuous killing in the country;

(b) if so, the details of effective measures being taken to stop it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. It is known that Vechur breed in Kerala and Punganur in Andhra Pradesh are threatened with extinction because of decline in their popularity among the farmers in the native breeding tracts and due to changes in the farming systems.

(b) and (c) ICAR has established nucleus herds of these breeds under schemes implemented by them and has also plans to cryopreserve semen and embryos of threatened cattle breeds through National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR).

19 states and 6 union territories have enacted legislation for banning/restricting the slaughter of cow and its progeny in the light of the provisions of the constitution. The 7 states/U.Ts. which have not banned the slaughter of cows for specific reasons relevant to them do not have the breeding tract of any of the indigenous cattle breeds.

Under centrally sponsored schemes, assistance is provided to the State Governments towards setting up/strengthening of farms of indigenous breeds.

MPLADS

2815. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge amount accumulated as interest on the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme Fund is lying unutilised in various nationalised banks in the country due to lack of clear directors from the Central Government; and