

*[English]***Agriculture Land**

2832. SHRI VENKATARAMI ANANTHA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a vast area of agricultural land is yet to be developed in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for the development of agriculture land during 1996-97; and

(c) the total area of land for which assistance has been sanctioned for development by the Union Government during the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects and National Watershed Development Project in Ranifed Areas in the State of Andhra Pradesh. These schemes aim at development of land on watershed basis for increasing agricultural productivity. During 1996-97 a sum of Rs. 10.93 crore was released to the State for the above purpose.

(c) During 1997-98 an amount of Rs. 15.16 crore has been released under the above schemes for the development of 0.42 lakh hectare of land in the State.

Rotational Transfers in DOT

2833. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have laid down any guidelines for the rotational transfers in Telecommunications Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision not to transfer the retiring officials/officers unless they request for transfer/

(d) whether the Government also consider the transfer request of the retiring officials/officers at the station of their choice;

(e) if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rotational transfer policy were issued in the composite Indian P&T Department in the year 1981. Vide letter No. 69/4/79-SPB-I Dated 12.11.1981, and implemented accordingly. However, in view of economy reasons, rotational transfers involving significant proportion of the Staff in various cadres are not being effected at present as per instructions issued vide letter No. 249-23/89-STN dated 26.10.89.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, the public interest is kept in view.

(d) Yes, Sir. Subject to administrative feasibility.

(e) The request are considered favourably subject to administrative feasibility.

(f) Not applicable.

Releases of Postage Stamps

2834. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to release a commemorate stamp on the centenary celebration of the South African Associate of Mahatama Gandhi, Thillaiadi Valliamonai and Kalla Krishnmorthy a famous novelist of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No proposal for release of commemorative stamp on Thillaiadi Valliamonai has been received by the Department. The proposal for release of a stamp of Kalki Krishnamurthy is being placed before the Philatelic Advisory Committee in its next meeting.

Seeds Varieties

2835. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: