

However, the subscriber is at liberty to provide his own Telephone instrument and internal wiring at the time of installation of a Telephone Connection with admissible rebate.

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

[Translation]

Scheme for Small Holdings

2879. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY :
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to make the small holdings profitable;

(b) if so, the measures being adopted in this regard; and

(c) the outcome of the measures adopted so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) Diversification of crop production into more income generating allied activities covering horticulture, animal husbandry, dairying and pisciculture has been the thrust of developmental programmes pursued by the Government. It is proposed to supplement the above efforts by developing infrastructure including agro processing and marketing in feasible rural and Semi urban areas covering also the small and marginal farmers.

[English]

Political Dialogue with Japan

2880. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly after three months of diplomatic estrangement India and Japan have decided to resume their political dialogue;

(b) if so, whether the Foreign Secretaries of the two sides have met recently;

(c) the outcome of the meeting;

(d) the steps taken to improve the relations with Japan; and

(e) by what time Japan propose to resume aid that was stopped during the nuclear tests conducted by India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : (a) The two sides are in touch, through diplomatic channels, to schedule various meetings, including at the level of Foreign Secretaries, during the first quarter of 1999.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Following the meeting in July 1998, of Shri Jaswant Singh, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission with the Japanese Prime Minister and Foreign Minister in Manila, during the ARF PMC meeting, both sides agreed on resumption of bilateral talks and continuance of private sector and people to people contacts. Since then, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, met his Japanese counterpart, during a transit halt in Tokyo (October 26); Shri I.K.Gujral, Chairman, Standing Committee on External Affairs met Japanese Prime Minister and Foreign Minister (October 29) and Finance Minister (October 27) in Tokyo; Industry Minister Shri Sikander Bakht met the Japanese Minister for International Trade and Industry in Tokyo (November 2); a Japanese Parliamentary delegation led by the Deputy Speaker visited India (November 23-25); the 29th India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee meeting was held in New Delhi (November 30-December 1).

On our part, we seek all round development of friendly, cooperative and mutually beneficial relations with Japan, based on mutual understanding and respect. We favour a dialogue to promote an exchange of views on diverse issues of mutual interest. We welcome greater contact at various levels including political, official, business and people-to-people level.

(e) The Japanese side have informed us that no review of their economic sanctions is presently underway.

E-Mail Facilities

2881. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities where E-Mail facility has been provided in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the number of cities where such facility is proposed to be provided during 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

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

(a) Both E-Mail Services Providers and the Internet Service Providers can offer E-Mail facility from their nodes.