

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Ninth Five year Plan has been approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in its 48th Meeting held on 19.2.1999. The Plan envisages a target growth rate of 6.5 per cent with Public Sector Outlay of Rs. 859,200 crore at 1996-97 prices consisting of Rs. 492,221 crore for the Centre including UTs without legislature and Rs. 366,979 crore for States including UTs with legislature.

(d) The details of the projections in each sector during the Plan period is enclosed as statement.

#### Statement

##### Public Outlay by Major Heads of Development in the Ninth Plan

(Figures as Rs. Crore at 1996-97 prices)

Head of Development	Total	Percentage of Ninth Plan
Agriculture and Allied Activities	42462.41	4.9
Irrigation & Flood Control	55420.25	6.5
Rural Development	74685.80	8.7
Special Programmes	3649.00	0.4
Energy	222375.38	25.9
Industry & Minerals	65147.99	7.6
Transport	119372.52	13.9
Communications	47280.29	5.5
Science & Tech. & Environment	18457.62	2.1
Gen. Economic Services	14579.74	1.7
General Services	12496.18	1.5
Social Services	183272.82	21.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>859200.00</b>	<b>100.0</b>

#### Letters from MPs

266. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned Sansad Sadasyon tak ke patron ka uttar dena uchit nahi samajhti Sarkar appearing in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated January 4, 1999.

(b) If so, the facts of the matter reported therein:

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a special cell to monitor correspondence between the Members of Parliament and Government Offices; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) : (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are long standing instructions of the Government to the effect that letters received from Members of Parliament must be responded to promptly, within 15 days. However, where a final reply can not be given within that period, an interim reply is to be given. The need for prompt action on such letters has been reiterated from time to time. The Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions had requested the Ministers in the Government of India to ensure that replies to communications received from MPs duly acknowledged and attended to promptly. The Cabinet Secretary has also instructed all Secretaries to the Government of India on 23.5.98 and again on 9.9.98 in this regard.

(c) and (d) Guidelines exist under para 122 of the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure for keeping a special watch on speedy disposal of communications received from the Members of Parliament and a separate register is maintained in each section of the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. Further disposal of such communications is also closely monitored by the Joint Secretary/Director of each wing of a Ministry/Department. In view of this, setting up of a special cell to monitor correspondence between the Members of Parliament and the Government Offices is not proposed.

[Translation]

#### Subsidy on Fertilizers

267. SHRI INDRAJEET MISHRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of subsidy given at present by the Government on different varieties of fertilisers; and

(b) whether the Government propose to decrease the prices of Potash and fertilizers in view of famine and floods and to increase the production of crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The rates at which concession (subsidy) is being paid at present for various phosphatic and potassic fertilizers are given below:

Product	Rate of concession (Rs. MT.)
DAP (Indigenous)	4400
DAP (Imported)	3400
MOP	3000
SSP	900
Complexes	2477-4071

In the case of urea the difference between the cost of production/import and the statutorily fixed sale price is borne by the Government as subsidy.

(b) Government had decided not to fix the prices of decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers during Rabi