

(a) whether the Government had made any assurance to the employees of the Regional Passport Office that Cadre Review in the RPO will be completed during the current financial year (1998-99); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the decision is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the All India Passport Employees' Association were informed in December, 1998 that efforts were being made to have an early and definite decision on cadre review preferably within a period of about two months.

Cadre review of the Central Passport Organisation is under active consideration of the Government.

Expert Committee of ICAR

3298. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expert Committee of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) on crop productivity has advised diversification of crops in Punjab and Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

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

(b) The Committee observed that the area under rice and wheat has increased and the rice-wheat cropping system becomes the predominant. The Committee suggested diversification with other crops such as maize, mustard, groundnut, soybean, etc.

The Committee also suggested the cultivation of summer moong (60-65 days crop) in place of summer rice, and popularisation of green manuring and diversification with vegetables and fruit cultivation.

(c) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, State Governments of Punjab and Haryana, and State Agricultural Universities have been provided with the report for consideration and follow up action.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, which is the nodal department for agricultural development, has constituted a Steering Committee for monitoring and implementation of the recommendations. The Chairman of the Committee is Joint Secretary (Crops) Department for Agriculture & Cooperation, Govt. of India, and members are from the Department

of Agriculture & Cooperation, Govt. of India, Punjab and Haryana State Departments of Agriculture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research and State Agricultural Universities. The Committee has held meetings at New Delhi and Chandigarh for monitoring and implementation of recommendations.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has discussed the researchable issues and follow up action and has contemplated to intensify research activities in maize, pulses, oilseeds, forages, vegetable crops and post harvest technology.

Extradition Treaty

3299. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the names of the countries with whom India propose to sign extradition treaty in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : The Government of India has so far concluded Extradition Treaties with 10 countries (Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Hong Kong, Nepal, Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, U.K., U.S.A.) and is in the process of negotiations to finalise the text of the Extradition Treaties with 22 countries which are : Brazil, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, New Zealand, Oman, Poland, Romania, Spain, Thailand, Tunisia, UAE, Uganda and Ukraine.

Direct Recruitment of Dy. SP

3300. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reduce the percentage of direct recruits at the level of Deputy Superintendent of Police from 20% to 10% in new recruitment rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation against this proposal; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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. JANARATHANAN) : (a) and (b) Concurrence of the UPSC has been sought on this Department's proposal refixing the direct recruitment quota in the grade of Dy. SP in the CBI from the existing 20% to 10% in the new Recruitment Rules, which became necessary pursuant to the acceptance of the report of the Fifth Pay Commission by the Government.