

because of which incidents of looting and murders are taking place in those buses;

(b) the number of such incidents took place in those buses 1994-95, 1996-97 separately;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to formulate any concrete scheme in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per List II-State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime including the crime relating to Night Service Buses is the responsibility of the State Governments. The statistics relating specifically to crime in Night Service Buses are not maintained at Central level. However, the Central Government, from time to time has been sending advisories to the States apart from providing financial assistance to strengthen their policing infrastructure.

[English]

Assistance for Drip Irrigation

3192. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Maharashtra for payment of past claims of Rs. 27 crore and Rs. 60 crore for the subsidy on targeted sets of drip irrigation to be installed during 1997-98 under the centrally sponsored installation of drip irrigation sets scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard and the time by which the required fund is to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra have requested the Government of India to allocate higher subsidy during 1997-98 under the drip installation component of the scheme.

(c) The Government has allocated Rs. 18.74 crore for Maharashtra during 1997-98 for drip installation. The Government has also revaluated the unspent balance out of the release of 1996-97 to the State. An amount of Rs. 3.26 crore has been approved for release during 1997-98. Subsequent releases would be made on receiving the physical & financial progress report.

Bodo Movement

3193. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'ABSU to meet P.M. for State' appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated June 20, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the specific points of disagreement between the Government of Assam and Bodo Leaders; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to resolve them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There was a demand from the Plains Tribals in Assam, particularly the Bodos for creating a Union Territory/separate State for them out of the State of Assam. An Accord was signed on 20th February, 1993 between the Bodo leaders and the Government of Assam under which it was decided to set-up a Bodoland Autonomous Council. In pursuance of this the Bodoland Autonomous Council (BAC) Act was passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly in 1993 and it received the assent of the President of India on 13th May, 1993. Interim Bodoland Executive Council has been set up pending elections to Bodoland Autonomous Council. The areas of the Council has also been notified by the State Govt.

The main purpose of the Bodo Accord was to provide autonomy to the Bodos for their socio-economic, educations, ethnic and cultural upliftment. However, elections to BAC could not be held because of difference of opinion between the State Government and Bodo leaders over the issue of de-limitation of the constituencies in BAC area and the demand for inclusion of additional villages in the BAC area.

Certain Bodo organisations are demanding a full fledged Bodoland state. The Govt. of Assam is holding discussions with various Bodo leaders for resolving the outstanding issues.

Protection of Inland Salt Industry

3194. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take measures to protect the inland salt industry near Wild