

Satellite Linkage of Police Stations

3043. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal for setting up of POLNET using satellite for linkages of police stations all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Tenth Finance Commission has released necessary funds to the States.

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have accorded approval in Principle to the POLNET project;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which the Union Government is likely to clear the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (g). The Government proposes to have a satellite based communication network dedicated to the police and independent of the Department of Telecommunications. The project envisages provision of connectivity to all the police stations in the country via V-Sats. 833 V-SATs have been presently earmarked for various States Union Territories and Central Para-Military Forces. A total amount of Rs. 154.20 crores is involved in the Scheme out of which Rs. 77.51 crores (non-recurring) has been recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission as the share of the States except Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The amount allocated to the States by the Tenth Finance Commission will be utilised, with the consent of the States, by the Central Government for the purchase of equipment to be installed in the States. The Government is interacting with the States to expedite implementation of the project which is envisaged to be completed in approximately four years.

[Translation]

Rail Link with North Eastern Region

3044. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cities connected so far with the North Eastern regions of the country;

(b) the number of cities likely to be linked with the said regions; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to link city of Jaipur with the North Eastern regions directly by the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Guwahati is directly linked with a number of cities/towns including Calcutta, Bangalore, Delhi, Vishakhapatnam, Trivandrum, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Bombay, Gorakhpur, Cochin, Madras, Lucknow, Jammu etc.

(b) After the gauge conversions of Dimapur-Tinsukia section, 4055/4056 Brahmaputra Mail and 5659/5660 Kamrup Express are proposed to be extended to Tinsukia to link more areas of the North East

(c) No, Sir

[English]

Sachakhand Express

3045. SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to run Sachakhand Express between Nanded-Amritsar daily instead of weekly and to increase the reservation quota of passenger trains running/passing from the Nanded;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government have received any memorandum in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) within the existing operational and resource constraints it is not possible to consider increase in frequency. As regards enhancement of reservation quota at Nanded, computerised reservation facility linked with Secunderabad and Mumbai PRSs have been provided at this station. The passengers of Nanded can seek reservation on first come first served basis in all trains on these PRSs (Passengers Reservation System).

(d) Yes, Sir.

Construction of Platforms

3046. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct additional platforms and additional rail roads in Alleppey Railway Station of the Trivandrum Division; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

Agro-based Industries

3047. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of schemes under which concessions are being provided to the agro-based units alongwith the details of concessions provided so far during the last three years, unit-wise;

(b) the number of farmers benefited from such concessions during the said period, State-wise;

(c) the details of other schemes likely to be announced in the near future besides these schemes; and

(d) the details of the capital invested in this sector during the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (d). Agro-based units include both food and non-food industries. Food Processing Industries based on agricultural products include cereals and pulses processing industries, fruits and vegetables, meat, fish and poultry processing industries; sugar, edible oils, plantation crops like tea and coffee, alcohol etc. Non-food industries based on agriculture included jute and mesta based industries, cotton textiles, sericulture industries, cattle feed, poultry and fish feeds, paper and allied products, preparation of medicines from herbs, etc.

Assistance for development of agro-based industries included Assistance to State Governments/cooperative bodies/voluntary organisations/joint sectors etc. for setting up and enlarging agro-based industries. The Government also helps in developing backward linkages with farmers, marketing support, storage, packaging, training of manpower and research and development.

Agro-based industries being both in organised and unorganised sector, it is difficult to assess the investments in such industries.

Since no assistance is directly given to farmers for agro-based industries, it is difficult to assess the number of farmers benefited from the development schemes for agro-based industries.

Bomb in Passenger Train

3048. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a bomb was planted in a passenger train running between Kurukshetra and Kethal on May 25, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry was conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken against the accused;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the precautionary measures taken to avoid repetition of such situation in the future?

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

(b) A bomb planted in Train No. 3JNK was detected at 2210 hrs. on 25.5.1996 at Railway Station Pehowa

road. The bomb was defused by the bomb disposal squad of CID, Haryana, before it could explode and caused loss of life and property.

(c) to (e). A criminal Case u/s 3/4/5 of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 has been registered at the Government Railway Police Station, Kurukshetra. The investigation of the case is under progress.

(f) According to the State Government, intelligence machinery has been geared up and Anti-Terrorist Cells have been activated. Extensive combing operations are being carried out from time to time. SP Railways and District SPs have been exhorted to take all precautionary measures to prevent such incidents.

Production of Palm Oil

3049. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRI SURESH KODIKUNNIL :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States in which oil palm is being produced along with its production in each States during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government are considering to encourage its large scale cultivation to achieve the self-sufficiency;

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this regard;

(d) the estimated area likely to brought under oilpalm cultivation during 1996-97 indicating the estimated amount likely to be spent on the development of oilpalm cultivation in their States; and

(e) whether some State Governments have submitted proposals for expansion of oilpalm cultivation in their States, and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) At present Oil palm production is taking place in the State of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. State-wise Oil Palm Fresh fruit bunches (FFB) production of the last two years is given in the attached statement.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. In order to encourage cultivation of Oil Palm, a centrally sponsored scheme, Oil Palm Development Programme is being implemented in selected States and subsidy is given to Oil Plm farmers for planting material, inputs and for installation of drip irrigation system. Oil Palm farmers are also being trained at national Research Centre for Oil Palm Eluru (Andhra Pradesh) and Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Palode (Kerala).