

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): The population of Nepali-speaking people in India is yet to be tabulated.

[Translation]

**Talks with Nepal on Control of Floods in North Bihar**

576. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to hold talks with the Government of Nepal on matters relating to control of floods in North Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Talks were held in the second meeting of the Indo-Nepal Sub-Commission on Water Resources in April, 1991. The next meeting will be held on the dates mutually convenient to India and Nepal.

[English]

**Subsistence allowance to Extra Department Employees**

577. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsistence allowance is paid to extra departmental employees when they are removed from their work as per the decision of Central Administrative Tribunal, Bangalore;

(b) if so, the amount thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The special leave petition filed by the Department has been admitted

by the Supreme Court and the matter is subjudice.

**Fire in Vigyan Bhavan**

578. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome of the inquiry conducted into the devastating fire in Vigyan Bhavan on April 16, 1990;

(b) whether there are differences among the experts of inquiry Committee with regard to the causes of fire; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (c) A Committee was appointed by the Administrator, Union Territory of Delhi to inquire into the incident of fire in Vigyan Bhavan on 16-4-1990. The report of the Committee was submitted on 25-7-90. The cause of fire in Vigyan Bhavan could not be pin-pointed by the Committee. The matter was referred again to the Committee and the members have recently given their individual views on the cause of fire. The report of the members of the Committee is under examination in the Delhi Administration.

**Irregularities in Construction of Telephone Exchange Building at Kandivilli (Bombay)**

579. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1271 on January, 3, 1991 and State:

(a) the outcome of the enquiry made into the irregularities in construction of telephone exchange building at Kandivilli, Bombay and whether the guilty officers involved have been identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken against them; and

(c) if the report has not yet been received the reasons for delay and the steps being taken to expedite the matter?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):** (a) Information called for by the Central Vigilance Commission has been collected and has been forwarded to them for their consideration and advice. The same is awaited. Guilty officers, if any, are yet to be identified.

(b) In view of reply to question (a) above, taking action against any official does not arise at this stage.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

#### **Independent Jail Manual for Delhi**

**580. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Hang the convict spare the corpse" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated April 16, 1991;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether any independent Jail Manual for the Union Territory of Delhi has been made after independence;

(d) if not, whether the century-old provisions in the Punjab Jail Manual are being followed; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB):** (a) and (b) A news item appeared in the "Indian Express" in its issue of April 16, 1991, regarding

a public interest petition moved before the Supreme Court by a human rights activist criticising hanging as a mode of execution. The petitioner is stated to have urged the adoption of "painless" methods of execution.

(c) to (e) The Union Territory of Delhi has its own Jail Manual known as the 'Delhi Prison Manual' and the rules thereunder were notified in 1988.

#### **Production of Steel by SAIL Plants**

**581. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN:** Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly target and actual production of hot metal, ingot steel, saleable steel and saleable pig iron respectively in SAIL plants, during 1990-91 and upto June, 1991;

(b) the month-wise capacity utilisation during the aforesaid period in respect of each product; and

(c) the reasons for shortfall if any, and the steps taken or being taken for achieving the target in each category?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV):** (a) and (b) The information for the period April '90 to March '91 and for the period April-June, '91 has been furnished in Statements I and II respectively.

(c) The major reasons for shortfall were the deficiencies in coal and power supplies, both in qualitative and quantitative terms. Besides, industrial relation problems, poor health of equipment and managerial deficiencies also played a part. Among the steps taken for achieving the production targets are the constant inter-action with suppliers of indigenous coal and power to improve supplies, better management of imported coking coal, increased captive power generation, modernisation and better maintenance of plant and equipment and inculcation of better discipline. During the current year, SAIL have met their production targets so far except for Crude Steel.