

million under two separate agreements together; one for the dam and powerhouse and the other for the canal portion.

(d) and (e) The cumulative utilisation till end of June, 1991 has been US \$ 194.998 million.

#### Sub-Foreign Post Office at Surat

556. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Sub-Foreign Post Office at Surat has been opened; and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

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

(b) Arrangements to open the office could not be finalised because of administrative reasons.

#### [Translation]

#### Promoting Use of Manures

557. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural land where cow dung, compost and manures are used has more water retention capacity than the land where chemical fertilizers are being used; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to promote the use of manures which will in turn reduce the cost of agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Governments are regularly advised to take adequate steps to increase the production and use of organic manures.

#### [English]

#### Flood Assistance to Maharashtra

558. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale damage caused to the property in Bombay due to heavy rains and resultant floods during the first week of June, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought assistance from the Union Government to meet the situation;

(c) if so, the details of the assistance sought and provided by the Union Government;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to send a Central team to assess the damage; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Government of Maharashtra have reported the following damage due to the heavy rains in Bombay in the first week of June, 1991:—

(i) No. of persons died	54
(ii) No. of destitutes	205
(iii) No. of huts fully damaged	5
(iv) No. of houses partially damaged	44
(v) Total loss	Rs. 54.50 lakhs (approximately)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Under the revised scheme for financing relief expenditure introduced from 1-4-90, on the recommendations of the 9th Finance Commission, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been created for each State with an

allocated amount, 75% of which is contributed by the Central Government as non-plan grant in four quarterly instalments and 25% is contributed by the State Govt. With the creation of Calamity Relief Fund, the State Government is required to meet all expenditure on management of natural calamities. The earlier system of sending Central teams to assess damages and the requirements of central assistance is no longer in force.

Maharashtra State has been allocated Rs. 44.00 crores on annual basis under Calamity Relief Fund. For 1991-92, Rs. 16.50 crores has been released towards Central share, in two quarterly instalments.

#### **Maharashtra-Karnataka Border Dispute**

559. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the settlement of border dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka::

(b) whether the Union Government propose to have the issue discussed at a meeting of the Chief Ministers of both the States;

(c) if so, when?

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) to (c) The Government of India are of the view that this border problem could be resolved only with the willing co-operation of the concerned State Governments. Towards this end, the Central Government will be glad to render assistance to them.

#### **Bilateral Relations with China**

560. SHRI PRAKASH BABU VASANTHRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of recent steps taken by the Union Gov-

ernment to improve the bilateral relations with China?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): Since the visit of the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to China in December 1988, there has been a marked improvement in India-China relations. The high level political dialogue with China on matters of mutual concern has gathered momentum. The Chinese Foreign Minister visited India in March 1990 and the then External Affairs Minister visited China in February 1991. The scale of scientific, technical and cultural exchanges has been steadily expanded. The Cultural Exchange Programme for 1991-93 has been signed in March 1991. Agreement has been reached in principle on reopening Consulates General in Shanghai and Bombay, and also to resume border trade.

The Chinese Premier Mr. Li Peng has been invited to visit India.

Both Governments are agreed that sincere efforts should be made to seek a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question. A Joint Working Group has been set up to deal with the subject. The Group has held three meetings so far, during which the two sides have enhanced their understanding of each other's approach to the solution of the boundary question. Measures for strengthening peace and tranquility in the border areas have also been discussed.

#### **Inclusion of Manipuri Language in Eighth Schedule of Constitution**

561. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the demand of people of Manipur to include Manipuri language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the decisions, if any, taken by the Government in the matter?