

**Letters from M.Ps**

1110. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the letters received from the MPs are being replied by the Ministries/Departments according to guidelines laid down in the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure ;

(b) if so, the details of said guidelines; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The detailed guidelines to deal with the references received from Members of Parliament (MPs) have been issued to all ministries/departments vide paras 57, 60 and 122 of the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure (MOP). These guidelines provide that Communications received from MPs will be attended to promptly and replied to within 15 days. However, where delay is anticipated in sending a final reply or information is to be obtained from another ministry or another office, an interim reply will be sent within a fortnight indicating the possible date by which a final reply can be given.

**Assessment of Population**

1111. SHRI K.P. NAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the expected average increase in the rural and urban population in the country by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the result of the assessment ;

(c) whether the basic amenities are likely to become insufficient by 2002 AD because of increase in the urban/ rural population;

(d) if so, whether the Government have formulated any scheme to augment the existing systems of drinking water, sanitation, housing roads, etc ; and

(e) if so, the total amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) The Technical Group on Population Projection had projected that over the Ninth Plan period urban population will increase

from 25.44 crores in 1996 to 29.84 crores in 2002; over the same period rural population will increase from 67.98 crores to 72.92 crores.

(c) to (e) In order to complement the efforts of the States in providing basic amenities, Basic Minimum Services Programme was introduced in 1996-97. Additional Central Assistance was allocated to states to bridge the critical gaps in the felt needs for 7 basic minimum services (safe drinking water, primary health care, primary education, housing assistance, supplementary nutrition, rural connectivity, public distribution system). The States were given the flexibility to make their own inter as allocation of ACA among the seven basic minimum services as per their felt needs/priority. The Centre had allocated Rs. 2244 crores during Annual Plan 1996-97 and Rs. 3300 crores during Annual Plan 1997-98 as Additional Central Assistance for meeting these needs.

The National Agenda for Governance envisages expansion and improvement for social infrastructure—drinking water, housing, education, health care and sanitation. Throughout the Ninth Plan period the States and Central Government are expected to provide funds on a priority basis to these sectors aimed specifically to reduce the gap between requirement and availability both in urban and rural areas.

**Anomaly Committee of Pay Commission**

1112. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of the complaints received by the Anomaly Committee after implementation of the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission; and

(b) the action taken 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. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) As per the instructions issued by the Department of Personnel & Training, the Anomaly Committee of the National Council (JCM) will deal with anomalies common to two or more Departments and in respect of common categories of employees. The Anomaly Committee at the Departmental level will deal with anomalies pertaining exclusively to the Department concerned. As the anomalies are to be dealt with by more than one Department, the relevant information is not maintained by this Department.

**Ground Water**

1113. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Paanch Sal men Khatam