

directed the District Magistrates concerned to obtain these certificates from the Tehsildars; 9 such Succession Certificates have been received recently and payments to the claimants will be made shortly. In the remaining cases, District Magistrates have been reminded to expedite action.

Indian Gulf

1137. SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indians in Gulf Prisons as on date, country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to get them released ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :

(a) According to available information, the number of Indians in prisons in the Gulf countries as on 20.5.98 is as follows (the figures available for Saudi Arabia are only of those convicted since 1998):

(1) Bahrain	-	113
(2) Iraq	-	4
(3) Kuwait	-	53
(4) Oman	-	207
(5) Qatar	-	170
(6) Saudi Arabia	-	2702
(7) United Arab Emirates	-	800

(b) In case of arrest of an Indian national, a request is made to the host government for seeking consular access. An officer of the Indian diplomatic mission/post visits the detainee and tries to ascertain the circumstances leading to his arrest. Where necessary, the mission/post takes up the matter with the host government for speedy and fair trial and also for review of the sentence. The prisoners are released normally on completion of their terms of imprisonment. However, on humanitarian grounds, a number of missions have succeeded in getting remission of sentences in deserving cases.

World Bank Assistance

1138. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has announced to provide \$197 million for development of agricultural research and its dissemination among farmers in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the agricultural fields in which the above amount is proposed to be invested; and

(d) the extent to which the farmers are likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOM PAL) : (a) Yes Sir. The assistance agreed is US \$ 196.8 million.

(b) The World Bank has approved to support National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP) as a joint venture of the Department of Agriculture Research & Education (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) and the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation at a total cost of US \$ 239.7 million out of which US \$ 196.8 million will be financed by the World Bank covering a credit of SDR 73.8 million (equivalent to US \$100.00 million) from IDA and a loan of US \$ 96.8 million from IBRD.

(c) The amount will be invested to support technology generation assessment and dissemination in priority areas of natural resources management, nutrient and water management, integrated pest management, biodiversity, post-harvest technology and value addition and bio-technology for resolving problems facing major production systems in the country.

(d) A large number of farmers will be benefitted by improved supply of relevant and sustainable technologies delivered at lower unit costs, and their dissemination through innovative models envisaged under the project.

[Translation]

Farakka Barrage

1139. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that after the construction of Farakka Barrage on the river Ganga in West Bengal a large scale devastation occurred in Northern India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 2.5 crore acre land in West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh adjoining Ganga and its tributaries came under water-logging for ever; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.