

of Chief Secretary of Govt. of Maharashtra, Govt. of Maharashtra proposed to jointly set up a State of the art of high speed local area network in Mantralaya and New Administrative Block at Mumbai.

A proposal was formulated in consultation with Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for implementation of total File Monitoring System which has since been completed. Another proposal was received for establishing a structured high speed LAN within the Secretariat complex.

A proposal has been received from Govt. of Karnataka for networking its offices.

(b) NIC submitted to Govt. of Maharashtra detailed proposal in January, 1998 which has been approved by the Govt. of Maharashtra recently.

In the case of Andhra Pradesh State, NIC has completed its portion of work regarding providing of active components of the LAN, while State Govt. is laying fibre optic and UTP cabling.

In the case of Karnataka, a Comprehensive proposal to network the Govt. offices located at Vidhan Soudha has been submitted to the State Govt. NIC is awaiting their approval.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In the case of Maharashtra, NIC can complete its part of the project within three months after State Govt. completes its portion of the project relating to cabling/ducting etc.

In the case of Karnataka, approval of the State Govt. is awaited.

In the case of Andhra Pradesh, NIC has completed its part of the proposal.

Policy on the Price of Fertiliser

1124. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have announced any policy on the price of fertilizer;

(b) if so, the main features of the policy ;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to reduce the price of fertilizers for helping small and marginal farmers;

(d) whether the Government are considering to distribute fertilizer on concessional rates to the farmers having land below two acres; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Under the existing scheme, Urea is the only fertiliser under statutory price control. In the case of decontrolled Phosphatic and Potassic fertilisers like Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP), Muriate of Potash (MOP), Single Super Phosphate (SSP) and Complex fertilisers, a scheme is in operation to provide concession to manufacturers and importers to enable them to sell these fertilisers at a reduced price indicated by Central/ State Governments.

(c) to (e) Urea, which is the only controlled fertiliser is available to the farmers, including small and marginal farmers, at a subsidized statutory farm-gate price. Decontrolled fertiliser like DAP, MOP, SSP statutory farm-gate price. Decontrolled fertiliser like DAP, MOP, SSP and complexes are also available to the farmers at concessional rates.

Special Status to Goa

1125. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to give special category status to Goa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) States including among the Special Category States, for the purpose of Central Assistance for Plan Financing, are those which have a strategic location on the border with neighbouring countries and are hilly states, some with large tribal population and/or which have been constituted out of former small Union Territory/ districts, with limited and weak resource base compared to their development needs.

Goa, though carved out of erstwhile Union Territory, has no such handicap. It is one of the richer states with a well developed fiscal framework and possesses a known potential for resource mobilisation from tourism, minerals and mineral based industries. As such, the State of Goa does not qualify for status of Special Category State.