

**Repatriation of Bangla Refugees**

7308. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI:  
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of sending back the Bangladesh refugees living in Tripura has started;

(b) if so, the number of refugees returned to Bangladesh so far; and

(c) by which date all the refugees are expected to go back to their country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI  
SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No definitive date can be indicated for the repatriation of the refugees. The Government of India have impressed upon the Bangladesh Government on many occasions including the occasion of External Affairs Minister's recent visit to Bangladesh to do everything possible to persuade the refugees to return.

[*Translation*]

**Refugees in India**

7310. SHRI R.N. RAKESH:  
SHRI PHOOLCHAND VARMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of refugees from other countries have been entering India for some time past;

(b) if so, the number of such refugees in the country till the end of January, 1990;

(c) the country-wise number thereof;

(d) whether Government have made necessary arrangements for their repatriation and to monitor their activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI  
SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c). The number of person from Sri Lanka, Tibet, Burma, and Bangladesh staying in different parts of the country by the end of January, 1990 was as follows:

Sri Lanka	—	91,539
Tibetan	—	80,000
Burma	—	89
Bangladesh	—	58,406
		2,30,034

(d) and (e). These persons are housed in various Camps in India pending their return to their homes. Government are of the view that the return of normalcy in their countries will ultimately motivate them to return. As regards monitoring the activities of these persons, proper security measures are taken in all the camps to ensure that the refugees abide by our laws.

[*English*]

**Bomb Blasts in Delhi**

7311. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:  
Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any headway has been made in the bomb blasts that rocked the capital recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b). Persons responsible for the bomb blasts in the two police stations in Delhi identified.

**Total Number of Freedom Fighters from Kerala**

7312. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for Freedom Fighters pension from the State of Kerala pending decision before the Government; and

(b) the steps taken for their expeditious disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) As on date, no application from the Freedom fighters of the State of Kerala that were received before the last date viz. 31.3.82 is pending for grant of Pension.

(b) Does not arise.

**Improvement in Telecommunications Systems in Rural Areas**

7313. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecommunication tariff in rural areas differ from that in urban areas;

(b) if so, the details of difference with reasons thereof; and

(c) the details of measures being adopted to improve telecommunications

system in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). With a view to encouraging the rural public to use telephone facilities, the following charges have been prescribed for telephone connection:

(i) For small exchanges of capacity of less than 100 lines, which are mostly in the rural areas, the annual rental varies between Rs. 600/- and Rs. 750/- as against annual rental for the exchange of larger capacity which varies from Rs. 900/- to Rs. 1980/-.

(ii) In the case of small exchanges which do not have subscriber dialling facility (flat rate exchanges) there is not separate charge for local calls.

(iii) Telephone rentals for measured rate exchanges systems upto 100 lines have been reduced from Rs. 750/- to Rs. 600/- p.a., with effect from 1.4.90.

(iv) The charges for long distance calls from rural long distance public call offices have been fixed at 50% of the normal charge.

(c) To improve the telecommunication system in rural areas, small electronic automatic exchanges are being installed. For connect the rural exchanges, greater use of more reliable radio systems instead of overhead lines has been envisaged. These include VHI to Provide all Gram Panchayats with a public telephone by the end of the 8th Plan subject to the approval of plans and availability of material.

The allocation of funds for expansion of