

(b) and (c). The Sub Post Office is expected to be opened as soon as the requisite formalities are completed, by 30.6.1990.

S.T.D. Facility In Tripura

10233. SHRI K.B. DEB BURMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether S.T.D. facilities have been provided in any of the telephone exchanges in Tripura;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government to provide Tripura with an effective, dependable telephone network; and

(d) the time by which the remaining telephone exchanges will be provided with STD facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While Agartala is connected with NSD/ISD facility, Radhakishorepur and Kailashahar are connected to Agartala on Point-to-Point S.T.D.

(c) Department has plans to replace the existing telephone exchanges by Electronic Exchanges subject to norms and new electronic exchanges have been proposed subject to availability of equipment and demand.

For the effective telephone network Satellite Earth Stations and radio links have been planned.

(d) S.T.D. facility at Radhakishorepur and Kailashhar will be available during the current financial year.

STD facility to additional stations in

Tripura State will be provided progressively—

(i) to all Sub-Divisional Headquarters; and

(ii) exchanges with more than 500 lines as on 1.4.90.

Carrying of Weapons as Religious Symbol

10234. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of taking weapons considered as part of religion and faith by certain communities, in educational institutions, examinations and public places, other than religious ones, is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, by what time, directions in this regard are likely to be issued; and

(c) if not, steps sites Government propose to take to curb the spurt of violence, where such weapons were used during the recent past in such institutions/occasions?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Powers of the Central Government under the Arms Act, 1959 and the Arms Rules, 1962 to regulate possession and carrying of arms are delegated to State Governments/Union Territories Administration. These powers enable them to take appropriate preventive measure in this regard.

Mini-Fertilizer Plants

10235. SHRI A.K. ROY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether mini-fertilizer plants have proved to be economically suitable for this country; and

(b) if so, the steps to be taken thereon in the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) The viability of mini-fertilizer plants is yet to be established.

(b) Does not arise.

Over Crowding in DTC Buses

10236. SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is over crowding in the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses and Private/Mini buses under DTC operation in Delhi during peak hours;

(b) the action taken against them for violation of the rules; and

(c) the steps taken to check such over crowding, particularly in the context of the current terrorist wave of bomb blasts in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There have been instances of over-crowding in the buses. It has not been always possible for DTC to avoid the over-crowding in their buses particularly during peak hours, due to uni-directional pattern of traffic and inadequacy of buses. The Enforcement Branch of the Directorate of Transport, Delhi Administration and Delhi Police authorities have, however, been undertaking regular checks to check over-crowding and also to initiate corrective action including launching of prosecution.

(c) In order to reduce over-crowding, besides regular checks conducted by enforcement authorities of Delhi Administration and Delhi Police, constant efforts are being made by DTC for increasing its carrying capacity through better fleet utilisation and vehicle utilisation. The fleet utilisation has increased from 82.55% in 1987-88 to 86.75% in 1988-89 and 89.04% in 1989-90. The vehicle utilisation i.e. kilometres operated per bus daily has also increased from 210 kms. in 1987-88 to 221 Kms. in 1988-89 and 233 Kms. in 1989-90.

Drilling Rigs to Madhya Pradesh

10237. SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of villages in Madhya Pradesh are badly affected by drinking water shortage due to scanty rains this year;

(b) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has urged Union Government to spare as many drilling rigs as possible; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) The State Government has reported that out of 71352 villages, about 6310 villages which are affected by drinking water shortage are to be covered under the Scarcity Programme. Apart from this, there are about 146 'No Source' problem villages (PVs) and 5870 partially covered PVs to be provided with safe drinking water facilities during 1990-91 under the normal plan programmes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This is the peak season for drilling of