

Arrears of N.F.L. Outstanding Against the Dealers

10280. SHRI MANIK RAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of arrears of National Fertilisers Limited outstanding against its dealers as on 31st March, 1990 and its agent-wise break-up;

(b) the loss of interest being suffered by the Company due to non-recovery of these arrears;

(c) whether there is any proposal to charge interest on the large amounts of arrears outstanding against the dealers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIDEVI LAL): (a) and (b). National Fertilisers Limited has more than one thousand dealers of fertilisers operating in many States. The accounts of the Company for the year 1989-90 are still being compiled and audited. As such, details asked for are not available at present.

(c) and (d). No recovery of interest for delays, if any, on payment by dealers is claimed since the terms of sale do not provide for the same. For abnormal delays in payments involving recovery action through court, interest is being claimed.

Expenditure Incurred on Haj Pilgrims

10821. KUMARI UMABHARTI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance provided by Government in fare to each Haj Pilgrim;

(b) the per capita expenditure incurred by Government for lodging and boarding arrangements of these pilgrims;

(c) the total amount spent by Government on Haj Pilgrims on various assistance and facilities provided during the last two years; and

(d) whether annual income of such pilgrims are taken into account while providing these facilities to them or all pilgrims are treated equally?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The assistance provided by the Government during 1989 for Haj pilgrims by ship is estimated at Rs. 2483 per pilgrim; however, no specific subsidy has been provided by the Government in the air fares of the Haj pilgrims.

(b) Nil.

(c) The total amount spent by the Government excluding the subsidy for the ship fares, during Haj 1988 and Haj 1989 is estimated at Rs. 62.4 lakhs.

(d) Services are extended equally to all pilgrims, without any discrimination on grounds of income or any other basis.

Setting up of Electronic Telephone Exchange at Pukhrayan

10282. SHRI KESHRI LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether STD service, which was available earlier to the general public has been withdrawn now at Tehsil headquarters of Kanpur Dehat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for not setting up an