

(a) the details of major and medium irrigation projects proposed to be executed in Rajasthan during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount of investment involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). The Eighth Five Year Plan has not been finalised.

#### **Complaints Against the Indian Embassy Officials in Iraq**

\*96. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:  
SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any complaints against the Indian Embassy officials in Iraq and elsewhere regarding their treatment with the Indians trapped there; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the action, if any, taken in this regard?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): (a) and (b). Our Embassies in Kuwait, Iraq and Jordan handled the movement and looked after the welfare of over 140,000 Indians moving from Kuwait and Iraq to Jordan. This evacuation was arranged and completed within a short period of less than two months. Our officials had to work round the clock to cope with the task they faced.

But for some problems in the initial stage of the evacuation which was unplanned, the manner in which our Embassies looked after these Indian nationals and assisted in their evacuation has come in for

wide commendation both by those who returned as well as by international organisations operating in that region. A few complaints received were immediately brought to the attention of the Missions concerned with a view to taking remedial action.

#### **Initiatives to Solve Sri Lankan Ethnic Problem**

\*97. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:  
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh initiatives have been taken by the Union Government to solve the ethnic problem of Tamilians in Sri Lanka;

(b) whether he visited Sri Lanka recently in this connection;

(c) if so, the outcome of the talks held by him with the leaders of Sri Lanka;

(d) whether the Government have drawn up any plan to improve Indo-Sri Lanka relations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): (a) The ethnic problem in Sri Lanka is ultimately a matter to be settled between the Sri Lanka Government & the Tamils. Government have again conveyed to the Sri Lanka Government that only a negotiated political settlement which takes into account legitimate Tamil demands can lead to a lasting solution of the ethnic problem.

(b) and (c). The visit of former External Affairs Minister to Sri Lanka, while providing