

set a time-table for questions of this kind Government will take the decision considering all the factors (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER Please take your seats
Let us hear the Prime Minister

[*Translation*]

Prime Minister is speaking again

[*English*]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH
Sir, it will not be fair to the House to give an assurance without looking into the matter (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY This is concerning the unanimous Resolution adopted by both the Houses of Parliament. The Government is bound to implement it. It is not a question of whether to implement it or not to implement it. He has to say that it is implemented. It is not a question of Government interference. This is a Resolution passed by the Parliament. They have to implement it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA This is a case of implementation of the Resolution (*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER Mrs Choudhury, the Prime Minister is on his legs. Please take your seat.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA He can assure the House that it will be implemented (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH Just listen to me. I am fully cognisant of the sentiments of the hon. Members on this matter. What I said was that the Minister for Surface Transport mentioned that he has referred the matter to the Finance Ministry. The previous Government had passed it. During 1988, the Resolution was passed in all earnestness. There must have been some problems. Certainly owing to weighty considerations it could not implement it right

away. I don't doubt the intention of the previous Government. So I have to find out as to what were the problems, what is the difficulty before the Finance Ministry. It is not our intention to just report to you the difficulty. We have to find out what are the circumstances and then come in right earnest, saving this is the position, this is what can be done in the present circumstances.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Road in Forest Areas of Madhya Pradesh

*305 SHRI CHHAVIBAM ARGAL Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether problems are being faced in the construction of roads passing through forest areas in dacoit prone areas, adivasi areas and those being constructed under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme due to non transfer of land by the Forest Department in Madhya Pradesh and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Union Government to speed up the construction of the approved roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA) (a) It is true that some delay is being caused in the construction of roads passing through forest areas in Madhya Pradesh because diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes is governed under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and prior approval of the Central Government has to be secured before stating the construction on forest lands.

(b) To facilitate the preparation of proposals by the State Governments for obtaining prior approval of the Government of India, detailed guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. A proforma for supplying the necessary infor-

mation for processing the proposals has also been prescribed by the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Department of Rural Development has offered to assist the State Government in seeking early clearance of their specific proposals in respect of roads which have been sanctioned by this Department

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL Mr Speaker, the hon Minister also has agreed that problems are being faced in the construction of roads passing through forest areas, in dacoit prone areas and adivasi areas and those being constructed under the Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme due to non transfer of land by the Forest Department in Madhya Pradesh. I would like to ask the hon Minister about the reason for delay in this matter. Under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 prior approval of the Central Government has to be obtained before starting the construction on forest land. According to the Madhya Pradesh Government has submitted several proposals to the Central Government for transfer of land for the purpose of constructing roads through the forest areas to link the villages having upto one thousand of population, dacoit prone areas and Adivasi areas by the roads. But such proposals remain pending for years with the Government of India on the environmental or some other grounds. I would, therefore, like to know whether in view of the position stated above the Central Government would authorise the Madhya Pradesh Government to grant its approval at its own level in such cases in order to avoid the unnecessary delay in the construction of these roads? As at present all the construction-works under the Rural Employment Programme are in complete. Will the Central Government authorise the concerned State Government to grant the approval for such roads so that the construction work is not stated on that account?

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA Mr Speaker, Sir, such a permission is given by

the Environment wing of the Forest Department. For the purpose of permission in such cases, there is already an Advisory Committee comprises of three non-official and four official members and meets once a month under the chairmanship of the I G, forests. The Department of the Rural Development cannot authorise the State Government to grant their permission in such cases.

SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL The hon Minister has just said that the State Governments cannot be authorised for granting such approvals. I would like to ask the hon Minister as to how many proposals after the completion of all the formalities, for the construction of roads through forest areas, adivasi areas and dacoit prone areas like Chambal have been submitted to the Central Government by the Madhya Pradesh Government and how many of these proposals have been approved so far by the Central Government and also what is the reason for not granting their approval to those proposals which have not been yet approved? Mr Speaker, Sir, you know that the Adivasi areas form a large part of Madhya Pradesh. This is a back-ward state. A number of announcements have been made by this Government for the development of those areas in that state. It has found place in the President's address as well. The State Government wants to construct roads through the adivasi areas, chambal region and other dacoit prone areas but several such proposals have been pending since 1984 with the Central Government. Will the Government of India adopt such a policy as all the proposals pending with them may be granted immediate approval?

MR SPEAKER Now, it is enough. Constant repetition of the something does not enhance the importance of it.

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA Mr Speaker, Sir, 11 such proposals related to Madhya Pradesh, were brought before the Advisory Committee about which I have mentioned earlier, seven of them have already been approved, two proposals have been rejected and the remaining two are still

pending which will be taken up for consideration in its next monthly meeting to be held on 4 and 5 September. Just now the hon. Member has stated that I could not give such authority to the State Governments. But I did not say that. Instead I said that the Department of Rural Development is not empowered to authorise the State Governments to grant their approval on a matter related to the Forest Conservation Department.

MR SPEAKER: But you represent Government of India. Now, Uma Bharatiji.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: You have already asked two questions. Now, take your seat.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr Speaker, Sir, As regards the incidents of kidnapping, murder and robbery in Madhya Pradesh. Some areas falling under Chhatarpur district of my constituency, Khajuraho stand at number two in that state. I have requested the hon. Minister, Shri Verma, during his visit of those areas, to take measures to level lakhs of acres of unutilised ravine land, stretching along the banks of Kane river which is mainly a robber infested area. In case the land in this region is levelled with machines on the lines of Chambal region, it will be not only utilised but also it will bring down the number of incidents of robbery and other crimes. Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when he proposes to take steps for levelling the ravines in Chhatarpur region by sending machines in these areas?

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Mr Speaker, Sir, I need a separate notice for this as this is not related to the main question.

[English]

PROF. N. G. RANGA: This is an unsatisfactory answer, Sir.

MR SPEAKER: Rangaji, he says that he wants a clear notice.

[Translation]

SHRIDILEEPSINGH BHURIA: Mr Speaker, Sir, the provisions of this law are obstructing the development of Madhya Pradesh. Whereas the Government has announced that they would take steps to link all the villages of the country by roads during Eighth Plan. So I would like to know from the Hon. Prime Minister in particular who is sitting in the house and the hon. Minister whether they will make some changes in the relevant law so that the proposals submitted by the Madhya Pradesh Government may be immediately approved and roads may be smoothly constructed as a large area of Madhya Pradesh consists of forest and tribal areas where mainly the villages exist? The hon. Minister has stated a short-while ago that the centre had received 11 proposals out of which 7 have been approved, 2 have been rejected and the remaining 2 have been listed for further consideration. So I would like to ask him whether some changes in the relevant Laws will be made in order to clear the pending proposals for the construction of tanks for irrigation, telephone-lines and the electric-lines in those areas which could not see the light of development for want of these basic amenities?

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Mr Speaker, Sir, this question is limited to the construction of roads in Madhya Pradesh only and it does not cover all the rural areas of the country.

MR SPEAKER: You may reply to the question concerning Madhya Pradesh only. Do not bother about the whole country.

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: I have clearly replied to this question that the Advisory Committee had received only 11 such proposals of which 7 have been approved, two rejected and the remaining 2 are pending and are due to come up for consideration in its next meeting.

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: Mr Speaker, Sir, many suggestions regarding the clearance of such cases have been given to this Advisory Committee. So, through

you I would like to know from the hon Minister whether the Central Government is going to make such an arrangement as to clear at the earliest various pending projects in West Bengal like the Tista Project, the Swarnrekha project etc and to give further information in that regard?

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA Mr Speaker, Sir, I have already stated that this is related to the construction of roads in Madhya Pradesh only. Hence I need a separate notice about West Bengal or any other state.

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DR LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon Minister has stated about the approval of 7, the disapproval of 2 and the pending of 2 out of the total of 11 such proposals. Now I would like to know from him whether the Central Government through the Amendments to the Central Road Act and the Central Forest Conservation Acts proposes to give some authority and facilitate the construction of road by the State Governments for the public convenience so that Jhabua and Bastar which are the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh and the other regions which are backward and dacoit infested areas, may see the light of development and the people living in these areas may avail the transportation facilities and their life may be secured?

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA It is true that the construction of roads in the dacoit-prone areas of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan is necessary. And the road construction scheme for those areas is being prepared on the basis of the Ramanathan Committee's Report which envisages the construction of roads at a total cost of about 279 crores rupees in those areas during the period 1985 to 1990 under the Seventh Five-Year Plan. The said committee has recommended that an amount of rupees 100 crores towards this account should be borne by the Central Government and the rest of it by the respective State Governments.

S. T. D. Facility in Telephone Exchanges Near Ajanta Caves

*306 SHRI PUNDLIK HARI DANWE Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide S T D facility at the telephone exchange situated near Ajanta Caves and

(b) if so the time by which this facility would be provided?

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

(b) During 1992-93

[Translation]

SHRI PUNDLIK HARI DANWE Mr Speaker, Sir, the Ajanta Caves are famous all over the world. There is a village called Ajanta. Though telephone services are available in this village yet they are not working properly. Ajanta and Elora are famous all over the world. This place is of foreign tourists attraction. If a call is made from Ajanta to Aurangabad it rarely materialises. Even in case of emergency one cannot have his call materialised. As such it is a very important matter. Proposal is already there. Will the hon Minister please state as to what action is proposed to be taken by the Government in 1992-93? The Government is studying the steps to be taken in 1992-93 whereas we want S T D facilities at the earliest. By what time will the hon Minister provide S T D facilities there?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA Both the exchanges situated near Ajanta Caves and in Ajanta village have an installed capacity of 20 lines each so it will not be practicable to provide S T D facilities in such small exchanges. It has, therefore, been decided to change both the exchanges. The telephone exchanges to be set up in Ajanta village and near Ajanta caves will have an installed capacity of 88 lines and 60 lines respec-