

intermediate offices between the office of origin and office of destination;

- (2) unreliable open wire line;
- (3) frequent power failures;
- (4) far-flung delivery areas.

The following are the remedial actions initiated already:—

- (1) Introduction of Store-and-Forward Switching Systems in the Telegraph Network to reduce manual transmitting telegrams;
- (2) Gradual introduction of Satellite and wireless media;
- (3) Use of Mopeds for delivery of telegrams.

In addition, Electronic Teleprinters and Electronic keyboards are being introduced in the telegraph network to ensure more reliable telegraph services.

The Department of Posts has prescribed norms for delivery of letters. These norms are based on distance, transportation outlets available and the number of handlings each article requires. Mail movement is constantly monitored and corrective action taken for any deviation observed.

(c) In the Department of Telecommunications adequate number of Telegraphmen have been sanctioned on the basis of norms prescribed for delivery of telegrams. The delivery staff of Departmental Telegraph Offices are regular employees. There is no proposal to recruit more Telegraphmen for the purpose. In the Department of Posts, generally, delivery work is performed by departmental employees in urban areas and

extra-departmental employees in semi-urban/rural areas. The question of regularisation does not arise in either of these cases. However, to the extent that casual labourers were engaged for such work, a scheme has already been taken up to grant them temporary status.

#### **Flood Affected Villages in Hoshiarpur District of Punjab**

6704. SHRI SARJU PRASAD SAROJ:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 20th July, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 447 regarding Central assistance to flood affected areas of Punjab and state:

(a) whether the Central team had visited in 1988 the flood affected villages of Badla, Harta and Rajpur Bhayan in district Hoshiarpur of Punjab and assured the inhabitants the assistance for clearing their land of 5–10 feet thick layer of sand to make the land cultivable;

(b) if so, the total area rendered uncultivable and the number of persons who were rendered unemployed;

(c) the total area cleared of this sand;

(d) the area still to be cleared;

(e) the number of bulldozers deployed for this purpose; and

(f) the time by which the entire area is likely to be cleared to make the land cultivable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b). A Central Team in 1988 visited some of the flood affected villages in Hoshiarpur District of Punjab to make an assess-

ment of the damage caused to agricultural land by sandcasting. As reported by the State Government, the total agricultural land affected by sandcasting in the villages of

Badla, Harta and Rajpur Bhayan and the number of persons rendered unemployed is as under:—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Village</i>	<i>Area affected (in ha.)</i>	<i>Persons rendered unemployed</i>
1	2	3	4
1.	Badla	125	80
2.	Harta	28	19
3.	Rajpur Bhayan	—	—

However, the depth of sand varied from 2 inches to 4 ft and no agricultural land in the said villages had sand depth between 5–10 ft.

(c) to (f). As per report received from the Government of Punjab, agricultural land measuring 96 ha. having sand depth less than 2 ft. has been brought under cultivation in these villages. The remaining agricultural land measuring 57 ha. had sand depth more than 2 ft. and the State Government approved a separate scheme for removal of sand from these areas. Funds under the scheme were released in the last week of March, 1990 but the same could not be utilised due to shortage of time. Hence, the remaining agricultural land will be made available for cultivation during 1990-91. No bulldozers were deployed in the sand clearance operations.

#### **Research on Use of Neem as Pesticide**

6705. SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the institutions and places where research on Neem has been conducted in the country;

(b) the progress made at each institute so far and expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) whether any evaluation has been done and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):

(a) Sir, The major institutions where research on pesticidal effects of neem has been conducted are:—

- (i) Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.
- (ii) National Chemical Laboratory, Pune.
- (iii) Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad.
- (iv) Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.
- (v) Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry.
- (vi) Osmania University, Hyderabad.

(b) The major achievements are as follows:—