

to the wishes of the State Government, it has been decided to keep it in abeyance for the time being and expedite action in regard to the implementation of the first proposal.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the revised reply that you have received...

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The question Hour is over.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

#### **Technological Mission for Providing Telecommunication Facilities in Rural Areas**

\*148. DR. K. KALIMUTHU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a special technological mission for providing telecommunication facilities in

rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

#### **Indian Fishermen in Pakistani Jails**

\*149. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coast Guards of Pakistan had caught a number of Indian fishermen after intruding into Indian waters and they are being kept in jails for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government to secure their release and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). There are 119 Indian fishermen in the custody of Pakistan and the dates from which they have been detained are as follows:

| S.No. | No. of fishermen | Date of capture |
|-------|------------------|-----------------|
| (i)   | 33 since         | 26.10.88        |
| (ii)  | 12 since         | 03.04.89        |
| (iii) | 18 since         | 17.10.89        |
| (iv)  | 10 since         | 27.10.89        |
| (v)   | 10 since         | 31.10.89        |
| (vi)  | 31 since         | 14.11.89        |
| (vii) | 5 since          | 14.11.89        |

(c) A meeting between officials of India and Pakistan was held in New Delhi 30.1.90 to 2.2.90, to discuss the question of captured fishermen and the vessels. It was agreed to take necessary action to repatriate all the fishermen and to release all the vessels, that have been apprehended since 11 February, 1988.

The release and repatriation will be effected by 31.3.1990.

#### **U.S. Aid to Pakistan**

\*150. SHRI HARSH VARDHAN:  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has granted an aid package to Pakistan which includes the supply of military equipments and sophisticated weapons;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reactions thereto;

(c) whether any protest has been lodged with U.S. Administration in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of U.S. Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The details of US assistance to Pakistan for FY 89-90 are as follows:

|                              |   |         |         |
|------------------------------|---|---------|---------|
| Development assistance       | — | \$ 43   | million |
| PL 480 Title I               | — | \$ 80   | million |
| Economic support funds (ESF) | — | \$ 230  | million |
| Foreign Military Sales (FMS) | — | \$ 230  | million |
| IMET                         | — | 4 1     | million |
| Anti-narcotics aid           | — | \$ 5.7  | million |
|                              |   | \$589.7 | million |

On a number of occasions, the Government of India has brought to the attention of the US administration, India's serious concern over the supply of sophisticated weapons to Pakistan beyond that country's legitimate defence requirements.

(d) The US Government maintains that US assistance to Pakistan is not directed against India.

[English]

#### **Arrangements for Handling Coal at Cochin Port**

\*151. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to handle coal in Cochin port for the use of