

ture of the Telecom Commission; if so, on what lines; and

(b) achievements of the Telecom Commission so far in the field of new technology, electronic system and automatisa-tion of rural telephone systems?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRI SHNAN): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

1. With a view to promote rapid develop-ment of all aspects of telecommunica-tions including technology, production and services, Government has estab-lished a Telecom Commission.
2. The Government will soon announce a Communication Policy. The Telecom Commission and their structures will implement this policy in the context of our national efforts towards self-reli-ance.
3. The achievements of Telecom Com-mission so far in the field of new technol-ogy, electronic system and automatisa-tion of Rural Telephone System are as under:
 - (i) R&D efforts of various organisa-tions have been pooled together to develop new technologies in the areas of Switching Transmission, Software Terminals and networks. Electronic Digital Private Automatic Branch Exchange (EPABX), Rural Digital Automatic Exchange (RAX), Medium Sized Digital Exchange and Large Capacity Digital Ex-changes have been developed.
 - (ii) A comprehensive plan for automa-tisation of Rural Telephone Sys-

tem have been made for imple-mentation.

- (iii) Improved transmission technology for rural areas have also been developed and is being imple-mented to open more and more Long Distance Public Telephones (LDPTs) in far flung areas.

In the context, structure and framework of this policy, the Government may from time to time, review the work of the Commission and assign specific tasks for achievements within a time frame.

Withdrawal of IPKF from Sri Lanka

- *70. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARSIMHARAJA WA-
DIYAR:
SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGA-
LAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF-FAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) how much Indian Peace Keeping Force has been withdrawn from Sri Lanka to date;
- (b) the time by which the entire IPKF is to be withdrawn; and
- (c) whether any agreement has been reached with Sri Lanka in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AF-FAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) By the end of the year six of the eight districts of the North-Eastern Province of Sri Lanka will have been vacated by the IPKF.

(b) Government are committed to the de-induction of the IPKF as fast as practi-cable. Keeping the logistical and other fac-tors in mind, it should be possible to com-plete de-induction by the end of March 1990.

(c) Government of India and Sri Lanka are committed jointly to work out the expeditious de-induction of the IPKF.

We have proposed to Sri Lanka an early meeting of concerned officials to work out the de-induction schedule and to examine whether any acceleration of the de-induction is possible.

Visit of Sri Lankan Delegation

*71. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PURO-
HIT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high powered Sri Lankan delegation led by their Foreign Minister visited New Delhi to discuss the withdrawal of the Indian Peace Keeping Force from Sri Lanka;

(b) whether any other issue were also discussed; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the talks held?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c). The Sri Lankan Foreign Minister's visit to Delhi (December 6 to 8) was for conveying the greetings and good wishes of the Government and the people of Sri Lanka to the Prime Minister and to the new Government. The talks with the Foreign Minister were on matters of mutual interest including the de-induction of the IPKF, and recent developments in the North-Eastern Province.

In the discussions Government reiterated its resolve to strengthen relations with neighbouring countries, in keeping with the commitments made in the National Front's manifesto. Both Governments were of the

view that the approach should be one of trust and cooperation and of a joint endeavour for the mutual fulfilment of obligations.

Computation of Prices for Agricultural Produce on Economic Grounds

*72. CH. JAGDEEP DHANKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan or scheme to compute the prices of agricultural produce on economic grounds and give remunerative prices to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b). The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommends the procurement/minimum support prices for major agricultural commodities after taking a comprehensive overview of the entire economic structure of a particular commodity including factors such as, cost of production, changes in input prices, trends in market prices, demand and supply, inter-crop price parity, effect on general price level and parity between prices received and prices paid, etc. The prices recommended by the Commission are remunerative as they cover the cost of production and also provide for a reasonable margin of profit to give incentive to farmers for investment and adoption of improved technology.

[Translation]

Payment of Remunerative Prices of Foodgrains to Farmers

*73. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to