

constructed. Equipment for the telephone Exchange has been received and the installation has commenced.

(b) During 1991-92.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) C-DOT type electronic exchange has been allotted and is programmed for commissioning during the 8th Plan subject to the availability of the equipment.

[*English*]

Source of Arms to Ulfa

*109. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
DR. SUDHIR RAY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have checked up thoroughly the claim of the secessionist United Liberation Front of Assam that they obtain their arms from the para-military forces stationed in the area;

(b) if so, the outcome of the investigations made;

(c) whether Government are also aware of the rumours that these para-military forces are effective conduits of drug trafficking in the area;

(d) if so, the results of the investigations, if any;

(e) whether ULFA has established contacts with militant groups active in other parts of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to contain their activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) and (b). There is no substantiation of this claim.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f). ULFA has reportedly claimed links with one of the AISSF factions. Anti-terrorist measures concerning ULFA have been initiated by the Government of Assam. The Government of India are providing assistance to the State Government.

[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance to Bihar for Installation of Handpumps

*110. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD
YADAV:
SHRI RAMDAS SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of financial assistance provided for installation of handpumps for making drinking water available in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have received any information with regard to certain shortcomings or irregularities in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) Government of India have provided fi-

financial assistance to the Government of Bihar for making drinking water available in rural areas through various methods including handpumps under Accelerated Rural

Water Supply Programme and Technology Mission during the last three years as follows:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Releases (ARWSP) (Rs. in crores)</i>	<i>Releases (TM) (Rs. in crores)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1987-88	14.99	0.40
1988-99		3.50
1989-90		1.51

Out of these funds approximately 85% and 50% respectively are spent on handpumps. In addition, Government of India sanctioned 2000 handpumps during 1989-90 under crash programme for covering SC and ST habitations and an amount of Rs. 3.60 crore was released in March, 1990. Besides, 2100 handpumps during 1988-89 and 3915 handpumps during 1989-90 were also sanctioned for SC population in the districts of Gaya, Jahanabad and Aurangabad under a special program.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government of India did receive certain complaints regarding installation of handpumps in Jahanabad areas of Bihar. A preliminary investigation has been conducted by an officer of the Department of Rural Development at the level of Joint Secretary. Action will be taken after receipt of the full report.

(d) Government of India also advises the State Government in the Scientific installation of handpump. Special courses, seminars, workshops, etc. had been organised to improve the quality of the handpump drilling & installation in the country and also in Bihar State in particular.

[English]

Visit of High Level Delegation from Sri Lanka

*111. SHRIP.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level delegation from Sri Lanka visited India recently; and

(b) if so, the nature of the talks held with them and the outcome thereof?

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

(b) The Sri Lankan Parliamentary delegation apprised Government of events leading to the resumption of armed conflict in Sri Lanka and stressed that their operations were not directed against the Tamils but against "terrorism". Government expressed concern at reports of civilian casualties, influx of refugees into Tamil Nadu and the possible involvement of outside powers in the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. During the discussions the idea of Sri Lanka setting up refugee camps in Sri Lanka itself was also discussed.