

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: We have given to the concerned authorities full evidence of Pakistan's interference in our internal affairs. We are also now bringing to the notice of all Governments of the world the type of utterances which have been made by responsible people in Pakistan.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Savour Committee Report

*249. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have implemented the recommendations of the Saviour Committee in the respect of extra departmental employees in post offices:

(b) whether Government propose to grant various advances to extra departmental employees at par with regular employees: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (c). The Committee of Enquiry on Extra Departmental System (Savour Committee) had made 171 recommendations out of which 120 recommendations including 32 with certain modifications have been accepted and implemented.

Certain types of advances such as Cycle Advance of Rs. 400/- are admissible to certain categories of Extra Departmental Agents. Flood Advance of Rs. 100/- is also sanctioned to Extra Departmental Agents in flood

affected areas.

After assumption of office, the Government have started reviewing the position of Extra Departmental Agents of different categories. Preliminary discussions have also been held with Unions representing the Extra Departmental employees. The Department intends to discuss the matter further with the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission and thereafter to formulate appropriate proposals in respect of Extra Departmental employees.

[Translation]

Concession to Handicapped (Blind) Persons in Payment of Telephone Bills

*250. SHRI RAMLAL RAHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rebate or relaxation of time in payment of telephone bills is given to handicapped (blind) persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether any such proposal is under consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir. No rebate or relaxation of time for payment of telephone bills are given to handicapped persons.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, some rebate in rental has been announced in the Parliament for institutions for handicapped persons.

(d) With effect from 1.4.90, 25% concession in rental will be admissible for not exceeding two telephones (non-residential) in institutions like homes for the aged, infirm, handicapped, deaf-dumb-mute persons, orphanages, voluntary organisations for tribal welfare and other organisations recognised by the Government.

I hope the House will appreciate the various concessions the Department has been giving to the handicapped persons, as also employment opportunities through opening PCOs, STD pay phones etc. in pursuance of the general policy directions of the Government to help such categories of persons suffering from physical disabilities.

[*English*]

Setting up of Regional Research Centre

*254. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up new Regional Research Centres under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); and

(b) if so, their location and the estimated expenditure to be incurred on the establishment of each centre?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Package Deal on Assam Accord

*255. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:
SHRI KALP NATH RAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved a package deal in terms of the Assam Accord for the betterment of that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken so far to implement the package deal?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, the Government have set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri L.C. Jain, Member, Planning Commission to make proposals for speedy economic development of Assam. The Committee has not yet submitted its proposals.

[*Translation*]

Declaration of Khajuraho-Allahabad Road as National Highway

*256. SHRI RAM SAJIWAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to declare Khajuraho-Allahabad road via Kalingar, Chitrakoot, Rajapur as National Highway in view of the inconvenience faced by pilgrims and tourists;

(b) if so, the time by which the construction plan and survey of the proposed National Highway is likely to be completed; and

(c) when the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to the effect presently.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.