

Tamil militant groups to voluntarily abjure violence and surrender their arms. In the face of continued obduracy and violence perpetrated by the LTTE, the IPKF has had to take action to disarm them. Though the IPKF have broken the concentrations of the LTTE in predominantly urban areas, sporadic hit-and-run violence continues. In a guerilla operation of this nature, operations tend to be long drawn-out and dramatic results are often not possible.

As regards the provisions of the Annexure and the Exchange of Letters, which form an integral part of the Agreement, the Government of India is in continuous touch with the Government of Sri Lanka.

DTC Bus Service for West Delhi

*118. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DTC bus service is commensurate with the needs of the population in West Delhi; and

(b) if not, the steps being taken to increase the number of buses from different points in Delhi for West Delhi and vice-versa and particularly from Central Secretariat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b). D.T.C. has been deploying the buses on various routes on the basis of traffic surveys at field levels. Based on resource availability, the fleet is also augmented. The present level of service in West Delhi is reported to be broadly adequate.

Passenger Steamer Service Between Bombay and Goa

*119. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passenger steamer service between Bombay and Goa which

has been operating for several decades and suspended recently, is proposed to be started again;

(b) if so, the time by which the service would commence again;

(c) whether any new vessels have been procured or chartered for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The Central Government have informed the Governments of Maharashtra and Goa that the services can be resumed by the Shipping Corporation of India if they agree to meet the entire operational loss as well as the cost of Annual Passenger Survey. They have not agreed to this so far.

(b) It is not possible to give any definite time by which the service can commence again.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Assistance to Rajasthan for Completion of Drought Relief Scheme

*120. SHRI SHANKAR LAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of productive works undertaken in Rajasthan under drought relief programme are lying incomplete due to paucity of funds; and

(b) if so, the assistance proposed to be given by Union Government to get these works completed?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) and (b). According to the report received from the Government

of Rajasthan, a number of works undertaken under Relief programme were incomplete at the end of the Drought period. The State Government are making efforts to complete these works and have issued instructions that small works like anicuts, Khadins, minor irrigation works etc. may be got completed departmentally from out of the available savings. Central assistance is extended to the drought affected States to undertake relief works for employment generation during the drought period only.

[English]

Increase in Sponge Iron Production

*121. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to increase the sponge iron capacity to improve steel production;

(b) if so, whether more such sponge iron plants are proposed to be set up in Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRIM L. FOTEDAR). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). 8 units have registered themselves so far for manufacture of Sponge Iron in the State of Bihar. Only one of these is under construction with an installed capacity of 1.2 lakh tonnes per year.

National Technology Mission on Oilseeds

908. SHRI R.M. BHOYE. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Technology Mission on Oilseeds have decided to introduce a Public Health Campaign aimed at reducing the consumption of edible oils; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI): (a) and (b). Nutrition surveys made by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad and by eminent experts like Professor Gopalan show that richer segments of our population have been consuming unduly large quantities of oils and fats, leading to increased incidence of diseases. The Mission proposes to work with Ministries of Health and Human Resources Development to introduce a campaign for creating awareness of the danger involved in unduly high consumption of edible oils.

Construction of Rural Godowns

909. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether World Bank is assisting some state Governments for the construction of rural godowns;

(b) whether any financial assistance has been given to Orissa, and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the rural godown network has expanded in Orissa so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has been getting assistance from the World Bank, through the Govt. of India, for assisting construction of godowns by cooperatives in different States. Under the World Bank (IDA) assisted NCDC-I and NCDC-III Cooperative Storage Projects, the NCDC has sanctioned assistance to cooperatives in Orissa for construction of 1585 godowns with a capacity of 3.028 lakh tonnes. The cost of the