

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):

(a) So far proposal has been drawn up for introducing S.T.D. system between Vidisha and Bhopal only.

(b) The S.T.D. Scheme between Vidisha and Bhopal was included in the 1978-83 Plan. After detailed planning, orders have been placed for the transmission system and switching equipment.

(c) Subject to the availability of equipment, the work is likely to be completed by 1983.

Foreign Collaboration in Animal Husbandry and Vegetable and Food Food Processing

*833. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps for foreign collaboration in the field of Animal Husbandry and Vegetable and Food Processing; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 18 approved and on-going foreign assisted projects in the field of Animal Husbandry. The foreign collaboration is with Australia, Denmark, Switzerland and U.K. in the areas of cross breeding of sheep and cattle, establishment of Frozen semen banks, establishment of veterinary laboratories, training programmes, etc. There is no foreign assisted On-going project in the field of vegetable and food processing.

Urdu in Central Schools

*834. SHRI F. H. MOHSIN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Urdu is included in the curricula of the Central Schools for Middle and 10 plus 2 courses;

(b) if so whether it is being taught in these schools and the locations of such schools;

(c) whether Government will consider the desirability of making arrangements for teaching of Urdu in those States where a sizeable population speaks Urdu and give the students option particularly at the middle level to take either 'Urdu' or 'Sanskrit' as one of the subjects; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) and (b). Urdu is taught as an additional language in those Kendriya Vidyalayas (Central Schools) where 20 or more students wish to learn it. The information regarding Kendriya Vidyalayas where Urdu is presently being taught is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) and (d). The Kendriya Vidyalayas are primarily meant to provide uninterrupted education to the children of transferable Central Government employees. All the Kendriya Vidyalayas throughout the country have the same syllabi and common media of instruction. It will be difficult to make regional variations with reference to local linguistic considerations.

Provision of Schools and Colleges in Newly Developed Colonies of D.D.A.

*835. SHRI KRISHNA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made, by the Education Department to provide primary, middle, high, higher secondary schools and colleges in the newly developed colonies of D.D.A. where plots of land were allotted to the low and middle income group people in 1975-76 through draw of lots under the 20-Point Programme; and