

Government to resolve the issue?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY):** (a) The Committee on Jharkhand Matters submitted its report to Government of India on 18.5.1990.

(b) and (c). The Committee could not come to any unanimous conclusion. While the Expert members of the Committee suggested a measure of regional autonomy for the Chottanagpur and Santhal pargana areas of Bihar and setting up of A Jharkhand General Council as an apex body in the region, the representatives of the various Jharkhand groups represented in the Committee, reiterated their demand for a separate State. During the finalisation of the Report, the representatives of the Government of Bihar, who were also members of the Committee, expressed their inability to comment authoritatively on the views of the experts in the absence of directions from the state Government. They, however, undertook to convey their Government's reactions after the Report was made available to the state Government. A copy of the Report of the committee has been sent to the Government of Bihar to know their views on the recommendations. Their views are awaited. On receipt of views of the Government of Bihar, meetings, will be convened with the Members of parliament/M.L.As. and other local leaders of the Chotanagpur and Santhal Santhal pargana Region of Bihar to know their views on the Report. Government of India will formulate its views on the Report, based on the consensus that would emerge out of these meetings.

**Delay in Laying of Unerground Cables and Introducing Optical Fibre Technology**

626. **SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYA-WANSHI:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in this report on "Union Government (Posts and Telecommunications)" (No. 9 of 1990), the C&A.G. has pointed out Department's failure to meet even half the target for laying underground cables and that no headway had been made in introducing optical-fibre technology; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA):** (a) C&AG have based their comments on misinterpretation of the target. Actual target for laying of cable during the 4 years i.e. 1985 to 89 was 94.5 lac pair Kms. and achievement was 89.17 lac pair Kms. which is 94.4% of the target.

(b) For under ground cable laying the achievement for the four years is very good.

A good beginning has already been made regarding introduction of Optical Fibre Technology. In the 7th Plan itself nearly 12372 Kms. of Optical Fibre Systems have been commissioned.

**Representation form National Pesticides Action Committee**

627. **SHRIBHABANISHANKARHOTA:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from national Pesticide Action Committee for need for a National Pesticide Policy in the light of newer knowledge and developments towards goal of agriculture without chemicals:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The Government has received a representation from National Pesticides Action Committee and the same is under examination.

#### **Development of Pepper Cultivation in Kerala**

628. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received any proposal for Kerala Government for the development of pepper cultivation in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The "Project for Pepper Development In Kerala" was received from Government of Kerala. The project envisages long range and short range programmes for rejuvenation of existing pepper gardens and expansion of area such as massive varieties of pepper, better management of existing gardens in traditional areas and other extension measures for promoting scientific cultivation of pepper. The total project cost is Rs. 212.39 crores.

(c) The project has been examined in the Ministry and Government of Kerala has been requested to revise the project based on the observations made. The revised project has not yet been received.

#### **Mechanised Farming**

629. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special scheme has been drawn up by Government to promote mechanised farming;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) the various steps proposed to be taken to assist the farmers to enable them to switch over from the traditional farming to the mechanised farming; and

(d) the time by which the scheme is likely to be finalised and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The salient features of the proposed new scheme are:—

(I) It is proposed to lower land owning limit for loan for tractor from 8 acres to 4 acres. This will, however, be done only for small tractors of below 18 power take off horse power.

(II) Farmers in the category of 4 to 8 acres of holding should be given bank loans for such tractor set at reduced rate of interest.

(III) A subsidy of 30% for purchase of such tractors and their ancillary equipment with a maximum limit of Rs. 30,000/- per tractor set will be given to eligible farmers of between 4 to 8 acres and for