

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Regularisation of AD-HOC Employees in A&N Administration

1186. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ad-hoc employees working in Andaman and Nicobar islands department-wise and category-wise;

(b) since how long they have been working on ad-hoc basis;

(c) the reasons for not regularising their services; and

(d) the time by which their services are likely to be regularised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Indo-US Relations

1187. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to improve relations with United States during the last six months;

(b) whether any protocol/Joint communique etc. have been signed by both the countries in this regard during the above period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) During the last six months relations with the United States continued to improve in a number of diverse areas. Our bilateral dialogue covered international political developments, trade issues, high technology transfers, co-operation in narcotics control, science and technology and other matters of mutual interest.

(b) A mutual co-operation agreement on narcotics was signed by India and USA on 29.3.90.

(c) The mutual co-operation agreement on narcotics lays down the parameters of co-operation between the two countries in combating illicit drug trafficking. The two sides have agreed to exchange information, update training and equipment and a host of other measures to tackle the growing menace of trafficking in illicit drugs.

Supply of Drinking Water in Karnataka

1188. SHRIJANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project regarding supply of drinking water in Karnataka was sent to World Bank for approval;

(b) whether World Bank has approved the project; and

(c) if so, the cost of project and allocation of funds made to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA) : (a) and (b). After preliminary consultation with World Bank, the State Government is now preparing a pre-appraisal report.

(c) Does not arise.

Restrictions on Tourists Visiting Darjeeling

1189. SHRI SATAYAGOPAL MISRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to withdraw the restrictions imposed upon the foreign tourists to visit Darjeeling in order to promote tourism in the area; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b). The five districts of West Bengal including Darjeeling have been excluded from the list of Restricted Areas with effect from 18.7.90.

[*Translation*]

Upgradation of Branch Post Offices in Bisfi and Simri

1190. SHRI BHOGEN德拉 JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given on 29th March, 1990 to Unstarred Question No. 2641 regarding opening of Post Offices in Madhubani and Darbhanga districts and state;

(a) the time by which the Bisfi, Simri and Barha branch Post Offices are likely to be upgraded;

(b) when new branch Post Offices are likely to be opened in Makya of Benipatti and in Chahunta of Bisfi;

(c) the time by which the Post Office at Lokkaba Bazar is expected to be housed in its own building; and

(d) the time by which Bisfi-Benipatti,

Bisfi-Madhubani, Madhavapur-Shaharghar-Benipatti-Madhubani, Lokkaba-Ladniya-Jainagar-Madhubani are likely to be linked by telephone system so that the subdivision and district headquarters are directly connected with each other?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) The question of upgrading of Simri branch office has been considered but found to be not yet justified while the proposal relating to Bisfi branch Office has not yet been fully examined. Upgrading of Baarha has not been considered so far.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The following links will be connected by telephone system during 1991-92:

1. Darbhanga-Madhubani (34 Mbz M/W system)
2. Darbhanga-Beipur (30 Channel Digital UHF)
3. Madhubani-Benipatti (30 Channel Digital UHF)
4. Madhubani-Jainagar (30 Channel Digital UHF)

(ii) The following links will be installed during the Eighth Plan.

1. Madhubani-Jhanjhapur (120 Channel Digital UHF)
2. Lokhana -Jhanjhapur (30 Channel Digital UHF)
3. Madhwapur-Benipatti (SC VHF)