

Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers.

(3) National Watershed Development Programme in Rainfed Areas.

(4) Reclamation of Ravinous Areas in Dacoity Prone District of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(5) Control of Shifting Cultivation.

(6) Drought Prone Area Programme.

(7) Desert Development Programme.

Upto the end of VII Five Year Plan, an area of 33.85 million hectares have been treated for soil and moisture conservation. It has been found that soil and moisture conservation measures have resulted in significant reduction in soil erosion and increase in agricultural productivity.

Shortage of Quality Seeds

1244. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of good quality seeds of major agricultural commodities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken or proposed by Government to reorient or redefine the priority areas of agricultural research?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Efforts are being made to ensure increased sustainability through incorpora-

tion of inbuilt resistance for various biotic and abiotic stresses. Research on new approaches such as bio-technology, hybrid production technology, integrated pest management including biological control and post harvest technology. Thrust will also be given to diversify present cropping system by promoting new crops and also by increased coverage under crops suited for non-traditional areas. Breeding of plant varieties for drought, frost and salinity tolerance will be given top priority.

[*Translation*]

Computerisation of Land Records

1245. SHRI KANKAR MUNJARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme to prepare land records with the help of computers;

(b) if so, the outlines thereof:

(c) whether this scheme will help in safeguarding the rights of all categories of cultivators; and

(d) if so, the time by which this scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) to (d). The Central Government have extended financial assistance to 14 States for taking up one pilot project each on computerisation of land records.

A proposal to take up computerisation of land records throughout the country in a phased manner during the 8th Plan has also been submitted to the Planning Commission.

Computerisation of land records would provide for a more efficient system of management of land records, reduce harassment to land owners and other interest holders and minimise the incidence of manipulation of land records by lower level revenue functionaries.

It is likely to take about 20 months for a pilot project to be completed.

[*English*]

S. T. D. Facility in Thakazhy Exchange

1246. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation for providing S.T.D. facility in Thakazhy telephone exchange; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) (i) Steps have been taken to replace the present telephone exchange by an electronic exchange.
(ii) Planning of reliable transmission medium for connection to Trunk Automatic Exchange has been taken up.

[*Translation*]

Setting up Automatic Telephone Exchanges with STD Facility in Sironj and Lateri Tehsil of Vidisha District

1247. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide S.T.D. facility and establish automatic electronic exchanges in the Sironj and Lateri Tehsil of Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). There is a proposal to instal electronic exchange at Sironj and provide STD facility during the current plan period. There is no such proposal Lateri.

[*English*]

Alternative Jobs to J&K Government Servants

1248. SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether migrant State Government Servants of Jammu and Kashmir were supposed to be reinstated in the Government service in other States;

(b) if so, how many of them have been reinstated; and

(c) if not, the details of alternative arrangements for their welfare till peace is restored in the Jammu & Kashmir valley?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) State Government employees who have migrated from the valley are being paid leave salary till they are adjusted elsewhere within the State.