

Action taken against drivers/owners of P.O. buses has been as under:

	1988	1989
— Contract of private buses terminated	16	49
— Penalty imposed	Rs. 7,000	Rs. 7,300

j) The services of retainer crew and proprietors are dispensed with if they are involved in fatal and major accidents. For regular drivers, exemplary punishment is given after conducting detailed enquiry if the charge against such driver is established on the basis of evidence in the enquiry. This is besides the punishment that are awarded by the court. In fatal and most serious accidents the services of private bus and its driver is terminated. There is no proposal to change the present practice.

Installation of Edible Oil Tanks at Kandla and Calcutta

2691. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some edible oil tanks are being installed at Kandla and Calcutta;

(b) whether these tanks are a part of Oil Technology Mission or any other project, if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to hand over Veg. Oil work now handled by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) to National Vegetable Oil Development Board; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): NDDB is currently constructing an

edible oil tank farm at Kandla and has plans to construct a tank farm in Calcutta.

(b) to (d). These tanks farms are being established by the NDDB under its vegetable oil project 'Restructuring Edible Oil and Oilseed Production and Marketing' which was approved by the Government of India in 1978. This project now covers 7 States under which 3603 cooperatives in 43 districts and 7 State Federations have been formed. The project further envisages that producers cooperatives would have around 15% share of the vegetable oil market. NDDB has considerable experience in handling commodities including vegetable oil and has created a net-work of infrastructure under the vegetable oil project. It has been appointed as the market intervention agency for an initial period of 5 years from April, 1989. In view of these facts the question of appointing another agency to carry out the vegetable oil work being handled by NDDB does not arise.

[Translation]

Floods in Bihar

2692. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is wide-spread devastation every year in Bihar due to floods; and

(b) if so, the total loss suffered in 1989-90?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b). Floods cause fairly widespread damage in Bihar almost every year. The tentative loss suffered in Bihar during 1989-90 is estimated to be Rs. 9.50 crore.

[English]

Setting up of Digital Electronic Telephone Exchange at Udumalpet

2693. SHRI B. RAJARAVI VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to construct a new building for telephone exchange at Udumalpet; and

(b) the time by which the building will be constructed and a digital electronic telephone exchange with 2000 lines set up there?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir. there is a proposal to construct a telephone exchange building of Crossbar type.

(b) The building is likely to be completed by September 1991 and 2000 line Crossbar Exchange is expected to be commissioned by middle of 1992 subject to availability of stores. No Digital Electronic Exchange is proposed at this place.

Indo-Bangladesh Talks on Bilateral Problems

2694. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to hold a fresh round of talks with Bangladesh for the solution of the bilateral problems; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJARAL): (a) and (b). During my visit to Bangladesh from 16-18 February, 1990, all bilateral issues were discussed and it was agreed that the talks would be carried forward when the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh visits India for the third meeting of the Joint Economic Commission.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchange at Ramgarh in Bihar

2695. PROF. YADUNATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the building of telephone exchange has since been constructed by his ministry at Ramgarh in Hazaribagh, Bihar; and

(b) if so, the time by which the telephone exchange is likely to start functioning at Ramgarh?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The bldg. for telephone exchange at Ramgarh in Hazaribagh has been completed.

(b) This telephone exchange is likely to start functioning by March, 91.

Issue of Forged Passports

2696. DR. BENGALI SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cases of issuing forged passports from Lucknow and Bareilly Passport Offices have come to light during the last six months;