

(b) to (f). Since postings of IPS Officers outside Delhi depends upon various factors, like vacancies available, length of stay of Officers in Delhi, administrative convenience and suitability of the officers for the job concerned, etc. no fixed tenure has been prescribed for IPS Officers of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram & UTs (AGMU) Cadre for posting in Delhi Police. Transfer/posting of officers is a continuing administrative process.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Exchanges in Basti, Balia, Azamgarh and Mau. Districts remain out of Order

4648. SHRI KALPNATH SONKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of telephone exchanges in Mau, Basti, Balia, Azamgarh districts of Uttar Pradesh are dilapidated and the telephones remain out of order for days together; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to streamline the functioning of these exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, improvement in services is being brought about by upgrading the external plant network and replacement of electro-mechanical strowger exchanges by electronic exchanges in a period of 2 to 3 years.

Constitution of Metropolitan Corporation/Council in Chandigarh

4649. PROF. PREMKUMARDHUMAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to constitute Municipal Corporation or Metropolitan Council in Chandigarh with a view to introduce democratic system there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The existing system which has been in vogue in the Union Territory of Chandigarh since 1966 is working satisfactorily.

[*English*]

Allotment of funds for Kanyakumari - Rameswaram Road

4650. SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARDHANAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Kanyakumari-Rameswaram road along the coast line has been declared as National Highway;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to allot more funds considering the importance of the road which is of National significance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRIISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Impact of National Agriculture Research Project

4651. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Agriculture Research Project is one of the biggest projects for agriculture; and

(b) if so, the achievements made by it in respect of rural development so far?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIDEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project launched in 1979 has decentralised the agricultural research system in Indian States from the University Campuses to 120 agro-climatic zones in the rural areas with emphasis on location-specific, need-based, production-oriented research for developing integrated agricultural technologies for the farmers. State Agricultural Universities have through this project developed scientific manpower, laboratory and farm buildings, equipments, books and journals in rural areas.

The project has established a closer linkage between research and extension on zonal levels for prompt dispersal of new findings. Closer linkage of Research Station Scientists with developmental agencies and farmers working in the zone helps in developing relevant farm technology in the rural areas.

[*Translation*]

Schemes for Development of Agriculture in Bihar

4652. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new schemes have been formulated by Union Government for the development of agriculture in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIDEVI LAL): (a) and (b). Some of the schemes taken up recently for development of agriculture in the country including Bihar are Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP), National Pulses Development Programme (NPDP), National Oilseeds Development Project (NODP), Oilseeds Production Thrust Project (OPTP), etc.

[*English*]

Denotifying of old and Obsolete Varieties of Seeds

4653. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to denotify old and obsolete varieties of seeds as per recommendations of the Technical group set up by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the objectives behind these recommendations;

(c) the details of seed varieties of various crops which are notified presently; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take for identifying the obsolete and disease prone varieties of seeds?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIDEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main objectives are as follow:-

(i) To keep the list of notified varieties upto date by removing the old and obsolete varieties from the list of Notified varieties.

(ii) To denotify the varieties which have broken down for any rea-