

out the imperative need for such a confederation between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

(b) India supports the preservation of Afghanistan's status as a sovereign, non-aligned and independent country, and stands for the resolution of the Afghanistan problem by the Afghans themselves without external interference and intervention.

[*Translation*]

Publicity Camps Organised by Indian Veterinary Research Institute in U.P.

620. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the places where publicity camps were organised by the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the purpose of organising these camps and the criteria followed for selection of the places for organising these camps?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIDEVI LAL): (a) Sir. The publicity camps were organised during 1988-89 and 1989-90 in the Districts of Fatehpur, Banda, Rai Bareilly and Sultanpur of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) These camps were organised as a component of the "Action Research Project for Model Building" for effective and efficient transfer of animal science technology. The basis of selection of the places was backwardness of the area.

[*English*]

Telephone Connections in Kerala

621. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
PROF. K.V. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications for telephone connections pending in Kerala, district-wise;

(b) the number of connections given annually during the last three years;

(c) when the backlog is likely to be cleared; and

(d) the steps taken to improve and modernise the telecommunication system in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) As per the Statement given below.

(b) 1986-87	=	15570
1987-88	=	16449
1988-89	=	24114

(c) About 15000 applicants are likely to be provided telephone connections in 1989-90. Remaining applicants are proposed to be given telephone connections progressively during 8th five year plan.

(d) Out of the total 631 exchanges in Kerala, 627 are automatic exchanges including 22 electronic Exchanges and the remaining 4 manual exchanges are also expected to be automated by 31.3.90. During the 8th Plan period the Telecom system in Kerala shall be improved and modernised further by the induction of more electronic exchanges digital transmission systems.