

(d) whether number of States have urged the Union Government to take dal-roti schemes introduced in various States as a measure steps to help in removing the poverty line;

(e) if so, whether all the schemes of the State Governments are likely to be discussed in the NDC; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG) : (a) to (f). During discussions at the meeting of the Prime Minister with an all Party Delegation from Andhra Pradesh on 20th February, 1995 while referring to the Rice Subsidy Scheme and Prohibition Policy of the State Government, Prime Minister observed that since National Policies were involved in such issues, these were required to be examined in detail and thereafter a national consensus evolved. The question of financing such projects can be decided upon only after deliberations in the National Development Council.

There is however, no proposal, for the present to call a meeting of the National Development Council in this regard.

[Translation]

#### Public Grievances Redressal Commission

4321. SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of National Capital Territory, Delhi has sent any proposal to the Union Government to set up Public Grievances Redressal Commission to entertain the complaints against officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b). Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have sent a proposal to the Government for setting up a "Public Grievances Commission" to be headed by a distinguished Administrator to entertain complaints of citizens about alleged injustice, delay, abuse of authority, discrimination and differential treatment, corruption, lack of integrity and offensive behaviour. The proposed Commission would enquire into such complaints, record its findings and recommend specific action, with fixed time-frame, to the appropriate administrative authority.

(c) The proposal submitted by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has been examined and certain observations have been conveyed to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for consideration and comments.

[English]

#### Arrest of Iqbal Memon

4322. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Iqbal Memon has recently been arrested in London under the extradition treaty signed between Britain and India; and

(b) if so, the charges against him for which he has been arrested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Iqbal Mohhammad Memon @ Iqbal Mirchi has been arrested on the strength of a Red Corner Notice issued by IPSP Lyons in connection with case no. 38/93 U/s B (c) r/w Sec. 21 and 29 of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985 of Narcotics Cell Bombay. This case relates to seizure of 2027.75 kg. of Mandrax tablets (methaqualone powder) between 2.9.93 and 18.10.93 at Bombay and Pune in Maharashtra State.

#### Investment of V.S.N.L.

4323. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited propose to invest in I.Co., an affiliate of INMARSAT; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) I-CO Global Communications Lt., an affiliate of INMARSAT, has been incorporated in U.K. under the Companies Act, 1985 of England and Wales, for providing global hand-held satellite phone system. The total cost of the project is estimated to be US \$2.9 million. 38 Operators belonging to various countries are participating in the project along with INMARSAT. VSNL, subject to obtaining necessary Government approvals, proposes to invest upto US \$150 million in the equity of I-CO. The system is expected to be operational by the end of this century.

#### Ravva Oil Field to Multinational Company

4324. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ravva Oilfield was handed over to Videocon on January 27, 1995 at the production stage granting to them a high equity of 60%;

(b) if so, the reasons for awarding six oilfields namely Dholka, Wavel, Indrora, Bakrol, Lohar and Boala to multinational companies at the production stage and six more which are in the pipeline; and

(c) whether the Government are going to privatise the vital oil sector units of ONGC and OIL India Ltd. under the guidelines of Soundarrajan committee Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) The contract for Ravva field was signed on 28.10.94 ONGC has a 40% participating interest, Videocon 25% and other private parties the remaining 35%.

(b) The six oilfields namely Dhoika, Wavel, Indrora, Bakrol, Lohar and Baola were awarded to private companies to augment oil/gas production quickly. These are small fields and it is not very viable for the national oil companies to develop these fields.

(c) No view has yet been taken on the report submitted by the group headed by Shri U. Sundararajan.

#### Import of Newsprint

4325. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHRJEE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the total newsprint imported after decanalization (excluding Russian Newsprint);

(b) the total newsprint sold and in stock as on 31.3.1995 out of total import as at (a) above;

(c) the loss incurred on the above sale including interest on blocked capital; and

(d) the action taken against officers responsible for loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b). After the decanalisation of import of newsprint with effect from 1.4.1992, Government has not been importin or selling imported newsprint. At present, newspapers are free to import newsprint directly or through their handling agents. Hence, upto date data regarding the quantity of newsprint imported through the various ports in the country is not maintained by the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI).

(c) and (d). Do not arise as the Government is not importing or selling newsprint.

#### Minorities Development Finance Corporation

4326. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Minorities Development and Finance Corporation at the State level;

(b) if so, whether the necessary directions have been issued to the State Governments in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). However, State Governments and UT Admns. have been requested to consider setting up of State Minorities Corporation. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh have already set up such Corporations at the State level.

#### Permanent Residence Card Scheme for NRIs

4327. SHRI RAM KAPSE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a 'Permanent residence card' scheme for NRIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c). Inter-Ministerial Group set up by the Government proposed issuance of PIO card to persons of Indian origin which may entitle them to special concessions/facilities. No final decision have been taken by the Government of this so far.

#### Use of Kannada Language

4328. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS . Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kannada, the official language of the Karnataka, is not being used in the Central Governmetn Offices located in the State;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that due to non-usage of Kannada, the local public are put to great hardship in Karnataka;

(c) whether the Union Government had issued an order to ensure sign boards, rubber stamps, ledgers, logos etc. of all Central Government offices and establishments in the State are in trilingual form with Kannada at the top; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to ensure compliance of the order in its offices in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) to (d). Hindi is the official language of the Union Government. There is an arrangement for working in Hindi and English in the offices of the Central Government. But for the convenience of the public of the non-Hindi speaking areas, the Government have issued orders to use regional language, Hindi and English, in the same order, for writing name plates, information boards, boards, and headings of the letters. Though the responsibility for compliance of the orders regarding the use of official language, lies with the concerned departments/offices. but whenever any information regarding violation of these rules is received by the officers of the O.L. Department, they take action for the compliance of these orders in the concerned offices.