

garding flood affected villages in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab and state:

(a) the reasons for delay in implementing the scheme and the release of funds for removal of sand from Badla, Harta and Rajpur Bhayan villages affected by floods in 1988;

(b) whether the villagers had to hire bulldozers from Government at exorbitant rate of Rs. 370 per hour for removing the sand from their fields;

(c) if so, whether Government will refund such payments to the villagers under this scheme;

(d) if so, the details of modalities formulated and the time by which such payments are likely to be refunded and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to check floods in these villages, particularly the floods caused by the rivulet flowing through these villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (e). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House on its receipt.

Nepal's Work Permit System

9282. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians who had been affected by the work permit system introduced by Nepal; and

(b) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) No precise

number of the affected Indian nationals resident in Nepal is available.

(b) Right from the introduction of the work permit system, the Government of India had taken it up with the previous Government of Nepal.

Telephone Disconnected on Account of Non-Payment of Telephone Bills

9283. SHRI BALVANT MANVAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone disconnected in Gujarat on account of non-payment of dues during the last one year, circle-wise;

(b) the number of disconnected telephones restored during the above period; and

(c) the number of complaints received about the faulty service of telephones during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Sir, there is only one Telecom Circle covering the State of Gujarat, and the number of telephones disconnected in Gujarat on account of non-payment of dues during the year 1989-90 was 51487 against the 2876708 bills issued.

(b) The number of disconnected telephones restored during the above period was 47678 on payment of dues.

(c) The number of (written) complaints received about the faulty service of telephones during the year 1989-90 was 8427 against a total of 4,11,796 connections working in Gujarat.