

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

**Area of the Country**

966. SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of the country as on 1 January, 1935, 1 August, 1947, 1 September, 1947, 1 December, 1962 and 1 January, 1990; and

(b) the reasons for variations, if any, in the total area?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL):—

- (a) (i) 48,81,339. 3 Sq. kms.
- (ii) Figures not compiled.
- (iii) 32,63,395 Sq. kms.
- (iv) 32,68,090 Sq. kms.
- (v) 32,87,263 Sq. kms. (Provisional)

(b) The area in 1934-35 included the area of undivided India. As a result of the partition of India, the area of India diminished. There is an increase in the area of the India at the end of the year 1962 as compared to area on 1.9.1947 due to inclusion of the area of the French and Portuguese possessions which became part of the Union of India. The latest provisional figure reflects more precise assessment resulting from improved techniques of survey and inclusion of certain gulfs and bays as inland waters.

**S.T.D. Facility In Gujarat**

\*969. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of towns in Gujarat connected with STD facility till 31 March, 1990;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to introduce STD in some more towns in the State; and

(c) if so, the time by which this facility is likely to be provided in Kadodura, Olpad and Sayur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) 56 towns in Gujarat have been provided with STD facility till 31st March, 1990;

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) S.T.D. facility at Olpad, Kadodura and Sayan is proposed to be provided progressively during the 8th Plan period.

[Translation]

**National Research Centre for Temperate Fish In Champavat (Uttar Pradesh)**

\*970. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of National Research Centre for temperate climate fish at Champavat in Uttar Pradesh is progressing as per schedule;

(b) if not, the reasons for slow progress;

(c) the amount allocated for the construction of this project during 1990-91; and

(d) the time by which this project is likely to be completed?

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

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Rs. 30 lakhs.

(d) Within the Eighth Five Year Plan period.

[English]

#### **Repatriation of Tamils by Sri Lanka**

971. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:  
SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANGARAHANAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sri Lankan Government has asked India to repatriate over one lakh Indian origin Tamils back to India;

(b) if so, whether Government have had any discussion with the Sri Lankan Government on this issue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) A press statement to this effect was made by a Sri Lankan Minister.

(b) and (c). While matter has been referred to by visiting Sri Lankan dignitaries, no detailed discussions have been held recently.

#### **Abolition of Visa Formalities for NRIs**

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

(a) whether Government are consider-

ing to abolish Visa formalities for Non-Resident Indians;

(b) whether any representation in this regard has been received by Government; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The prevailing security considerations do not permit the abolition of the visa regime at this stage.

#### **Induction of Women in Local Bodies**

\*972-A. KUMARI UMABHARTI:  
SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI  
NAVINCHANDRA  
MEHTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to induct more women into the organisational and decision making structure of the local bodies at State level and at the Central level administrations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps envisaged for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) to (c). The matter relating to revitalisation of Panchayati Raj, which includes adequate representation to women in these bodies, is under consideration of the Government.