

(b) and (c). Central para-military forces are provided to the States on their request, subject to availability, to meet the law and order situations. The duration of their deployment depends on the prevailing situation.

### Construction of Rural Godowns

8069. SHRI S.B. THORAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have provided funds to Maharashtra State for the construction of godowns in rural areas:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of godowns that were to be constructed:

(c) whether these godowns have been constructed; and

(d) if so, the purpose for which these are being used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 5.24 crores has been released as Central assistance to the State Govt. of Maharashtra for the construction of 828 rural godowns.

(c) Construction of 711 rural godowns have so far been completed.

(d) The godowns are generally being used for storing foodgrains, agricultural inputs etc.

[*Translation*]

### Posting of Cultural/Hindi Officers in Missions Abroad

8070. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the Indian Missions abroad where cultural officers and Hindi Officers have been posted;

(b) whether any incentives are being given to promote the use of official language, Hindi, there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Hindi officers have been posted to seven Indian Missions abroad, namely, HCl, Port of Spain, E/I, HCl, Port Louis, E/I, Suva, E/I Georgetown, HCl, London, and E/I, Kathmandu. Officers in Missions abroad do not deal exclusively with cultural work; generally Officers dealing with information/press also handle cultural work in Missions.

(b) and (c). Under the scheme of propagation of Hindi abroad, Hindi text books, Linguaphone records, language charts and cassettes, help books, and books on Hindi literature, religion, culture, etc. are sent to our Missions abroad for donation to voluntary Hindi organisations/individuals engaged in the propagation of Hindi. The Government has also donated Devanagiri typewriters to several such organisations (22 in the last two years). In some of the countries (30) Hindi classes are held free of cost for the benefit of the children of India-based officials to enable them to keep in touch with the language.