

(a) whether Government of Gujarat have submitted the proposal for supplying the drinking water for Saurashtra and Kutch through pipe-line from the river Narmada for approval of Union Government; and

(b) if so, when the sanction to this proposal is likely to be accorded?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government is likely to convey its decision to the State Government by the end of May, 1990.

Meeting of INDO-Pak Joint Commission

6772. SHRIJANARDHANAPOOJARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) whether any meeting of Indo-Pak Joint Commission for normalising relations between the two countries was held in March, 1990;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise

Pension to Widows of Victims of Terrorism in Punjab

6773. SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of widows of victims of terrorism in Punjab who are being given

pension as on 31 March, 1990:

(b) the number of applications for pension of eligible widows pending as on 31 March, 1990, district-wise;

(c) the reasons for which pension has not been sanctioned to them; and

(d) when the pension is likely to be sanctioned in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d). Information is being collected from the Government of Punjab and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Telephone Instruments

6774. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of items imported during the last three years, year-wise, in connection with the manufacture and maintenance of telephone exchanges, push-button instruments, cable and other instruments; and

(b) the quantity and value of items proposed to be imported during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on Table of the House.

Replacement of Chairman of IFFCO, KRIBHCO and NAFED

6775. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government have recently replaced the Chairmen of IFFCO, KRIBHCO and NAFED; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b). According to the Bye-Laws of NAFED and IFFCO, Chairman has to be elected by the Board of Directors from among themselves. The Board of Directors of NAFED elected a new Chairman on 22nd January, 1990. The Board of Directors of IFFCO elected a new Chairman of 26.3.1990. The Government of India had nominated the Chairman of KRIBHCO on 19th December, 1989 under its Transitory Bye-Laws, which ceased to be effective from 11th April, 1990. The Board of Directors of KRIBHCO elected the same person as Chairman on 11.4.1990 under the Bye-Laws which are now applicable.

Conversion of Uncultivated Land Into Agricultural Land

6776. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise area of uncultivable land in the country;

(b) the steps taken or contemplated to bring the uncultivated land under cultivation; and

(c) the results achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Out of the total geographical area of about 329 million ha., according to current estimates, an extent of about 41-42 million ha. is classified as uncultivated land including permanent pasture and grazing lands, miscellaneous tree crops, groves, culturable wastelands, fallows other than current fallows. A statement showing State-wise information is attached.

(b) and (c). Though the State and Central Governments are undertaking programmes for bringing the uncultivated/wastelands under bio-mass production primarily for fuel and fodder, increased agricultural production is sought to be achieved through vertical growth in productivity rather than through horizontal spread.

STATEMENT

State/UT-Wise Details of Uncultivated Area (1986-87)

(Area in 000"ha.)

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of State/UT</i>	<i>Extent of uncultivated land</i>
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3505
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	140
3.	Assam	619