

(c) whether proper follow-up action is being taken after such visits; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken to ensure adequate flow of funds for IAY and other programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment is implementing Area Officers Scheme which primarily aims at monitoring the implementations of programmes of the Ministry in different States in the field including the State of Andhra Pradesh with special reference to quality, timeliness and proper achievement of physical and financial targets. Andhra Pradesh was visited thrice during April 98 to September 98 by the Area Officer concerned, to study the programmes of the Ministry including Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY). The Area Officer of Andhra Pradesh, during his visit, had noticed that the procedure adopted in the selection of IAY beneficiary in general is not in conformity with the IAY Guidelines. A Status Report has been called for from the State government.

The allocation of central resources for the programmes of this Ministry is on the basis of proportion of rural poor in a State/UT to the total rural poor in the country.

The allocation of funds from States to districts is made on the basis of index of backwardness of the districts. The Central assistance is released every year to the States/UTs in two installments, as far as possible, subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions such as receipt of utilisation certificate for releases made earlier etc. The State Government is required to release its matching share to the District Rural Development Agencies/Zila Parishads (DRDAs/ZPs) within a week after the release of Central assistance. Funds to the village Panchayats are distributed by the DRDAs/ZPs in according with the conditions prescribed in the sanction order of the Government of India, so as to ensure adequate flow of funds for IAY and other programmes.

कांडला विमानपत्तन

*215. श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने भारतीय नौसेना और वायुसेना के विमानों को उड़ान की सुविधा प्रदान करने के लिए गुजरात के कांडला असेनिक विमानपत्तन को सुसजित सैनिक विमानपत्तन बनाने का निर्णय लिया है,

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या इस संबंध में कभी औपचारिकता को पूरा कर लिया गया है,

(ग) क्या नागर विमानन मंत्रालय ने इस प्रयोजनार्थ अपनी सहमति और अनुमति दे दी है, और

(घ) उक्त विमानपत्तन को सैनिक विमानपत्तन किस तारीख से घोषित किया जाएगा ?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉज फर्नान्डी) : (क) जी, नहीं ।
(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Conversion of Department of Official Language

*216. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the 3rd All India Official Languages Conference, inaugurated by the then Prime Minister in New Delhi on 1st March, 1978 had adopted a resolution that the Department of Official Language, Government of India, shall be converted into Department of Official Languages;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the resolution, so far;

(c) whether Government contemplate to implement the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) A Conference of all States/UTs was organised in Delhi in March, 1978 to discuss the use of Indian Languages in Official work. The participant in the conference had exchanged their views regarding use of Indian Languages in Official work in Government Undertakings, Public services and in the field of Law. Among the recommendation made in this regard, it was also one of the recommendation, that exchange

of information relating to the progress in use of Official Languages in various States and Central Govt. Offices, as also the difficulties being faced in this regard, will help in finding out the problems and solutions therefor.

It was accepted in the conference that work in the States is being done in their Official Languages. It was Opined in the conference that in addition to translation work, most of the original work should be done in their Official Languages.

In pursuance to the provisions contained in Article 345 and 210, of the Constitution, various States Govts, have granted official language Status to one or more language for their States.

Under Article 343(1) of the Constitution, Hindi in Devnagri Script is the Official Language of the Union. English language shall continue to be used till official language Hindi take its place. Therefore, there is no justification in remaining the Deptt. of Official Language as Deptt. of Official Languages.

Citizenship rights to Chakmas

*217. SHRI B.P. SINGHAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President, General Secretary, Co-ordination Secretary and Assistant General Secretary of the Committee for Citizenship Rights on Chakmas of Arunachal Pradesh gave a joint petition dated 12th November, 1998, to the Home Minister;

(b) if so, what action has been taken on that petition;

(c) what corrective steps the State Government and the Central Government are taking to grant citizenship to Chakmas, in compliance with the Supreme Court direction of 9th January, 1996; and

(d) what are the reasons for non-compliance of Supreme Court decision till today?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government is already seized of the matter relating to grant of citizenship rights to the Chakmas of Arunachal Pradesh. The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has

been asked to ensure that necessary steps are taken to honour the Supreme Court judgement in letter and spirit. 258 citizenship applications received directly by the Central Government have been sent to the State Government for further necessary action. However, there has been a delay in furnishing of verified reports by the State Government agencies. Besides, a majority of the refugees have, reportedly, not submitted their citizenship applications so far.

Parallel courts in West Bengal

*218. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether parallel courts are functioning in the West Bengal and are handing down unusually harsh sentences on defenceless people of their own faith; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to impress upon the State Government to enforce the rule of law and protect weaker sections from this exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) According to information received from the Government of West Bengal, only one case has come to notice in which the father of a woman (Ms. Hera Khatun) who had divorced her husband was asked to pay a fine of Rs. 70,000/- on the ground that such divorce was not permitted under Muslim laws. This case was reported from Murshidabad District. The decision to impose the fine was taken by local Muslims on 2.8.1998. The father of Ms. Khatun is reported to have paid a sum of Rs. 10,000/-, which is said to be in the nature of a "Village Salisi". On the complaint of Ms. Khatun, a case was registered against nine persons, out of whom three have been arrested.

Indo-French joint military exercises

*219. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI ABANI ROY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and France have agreed to conduct joint military exercises and to hold second meeting of the Indo-French high level committee on defence cooperation;