

(a) how many schools and colleges have taken the VSAT-Bibliographic Data Base Project under the MPLADS;

(b) what are the difficulties faced for this project and what are the difficulties faced by MPs in giving these projects; and

(c) what steps are being taken to make the procedure easy?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH):** (a) As per the information received from the Department of Electronics, and the information available in the Department of Programme Implementation, four institutions viz. One University, One College and two Schools have taken up the VSAT-Bibliographic Data Base Projects under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.

(b) No references indicating serious difficulties in implementing this project have been received so far. Certain clarification which had been sought about the guidelines and procedures have been given.

(c) In the Department of Electronics' Brochure on "Guidelines on Implementation of Electronics Projects" every effort has been made to provide as much information as possible so as to facilitate expeditious implementation of these projects. It has also been mentioned that the DoE would provide the necessary technical assistance and guidance for coordination purpose.

#### **Request of Kashmiri Pandits to UNHRC for a safe haven**

1268. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Kashmiri Pandit leaders had approached the United Nations Human Rights Commission Sub-Committee on protection of Minorities in Geneva for their recognition as a bonafide minority in Jammu and Kashmir and had called for a safe haven for them within the Kashmir Valley, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 8th May, 1996; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMANIAN):** (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A Kashmir Pandit NGO based in London took part as observer in the Working Group of Minorities of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities under the Commission for Human Rights, from April 29, 1996 to May 3, 1996. It demanded a 'safe haven' for Pandits in the Kashmir valley and criticised the National Commission for Minorities in India for not recognising the Kashmiri Pandits as a minority. No reference has, however, been received from the Working Group on the demand made by the above mentioned NGO, nor was there any discussion on the subject during the Sub-Commission Session. In fact, the Kashmir Pandit migrants, under the aegis of different groups, have also been raising the question of carving out security zones to facilitate their return to the valley. Consideration of this demand has to, inter alia, include the issue as to whether such security zone will guarantee the safety of individuals who may have to step out of the zone to other parts of the valley on normal business and economic activities. There is no proposal under consideration regarding recognition of Kashmir Pandits as minority in J&K.

#### **World Bank-funded power projects in Orissa**

1269. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to implement any World Bank funded power project in Orissa;

(b) if so, what are those projects and the funds approved therefor; and

(c) by when those projects are expected to be implemented?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENGOPALACHARI):** (a) to (c) A loan of US \$ 350 million has been negotiated with the World Bank for the Orissa Power Sector Restructuring Project. This project includes assisting the newly set-up Corporate entities viz., the Orissa