

Government to improve relations with Pakistan;

(b) whether Government envisage taking the help of a mediator like US to help the Jammu and Kashmir problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Government desire a relationship of friendship, trust and cooperation with Pakistan. Prime Minister in his letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, has suggested that the two countries undertake a wide-ranging and comprehensive dialogue and resume the Foreign Secretary level talks. Government have also taken several unilateral measures to promote people-to-people contacts between the two countries. Pakistan's response to PM's letter to the Prime Minister of Pakistan is awaited.

(b) to (d) India's consistent policy has been that all issues between India and Pakistan should be resolved peacefully through bilateral negotiations, as envisaged in the Simla Agreement. Our unwavering commitment to the principle of bilateralism in our relationship with Pakistan rules out any third party mediation.

Taking over of Sainik Schools by Ministry of Human Resource Development

*297. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI:
SHRI JAYANT KUMAR
MALHOUTRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Sainik Schools functioning under the Ministry of Defence;

(b) whether his Ministry has requested the Ministry of Human Resource Development to take over these Sainik Schools; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Sainik School have not been sending enough candidates to the NDA and that only a little more than 3% of Sainik School students manage to pass the NDA entrance test?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) there are 18 Sainik Schools functioning in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Out of 660 cadets being taken-into NDA annually, 60 to 70 cadets on an average for the last six years are from 18 Sainik Schools. Hence, the average intake from only 18 Sainik Schools to NDA is 8 to 11% annually.

डाकघरों का दर्जा बढ़ाना

*298. श्री राधक जी: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) राज्यों में डाकघरों का दर्जा बढ़ाने के संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या मानदंड निर्धारित किए गए हैं;

(ख) तत्संबंधी ब्यौर क्या है;

(ग) विगत तीन वर्षों में प्रति वर्ष किन-किन राज्यों में अब तक कितने डाकघरों का दर्जा बढ़ाया गया है; और

(घ) वर्ष 1994-95, 1995-96 में और चालू वर्ष में आज तक गुजरात में ऐसे कितने डाकघरों का दर्जा बढ़ाया गया है?

संचार मंत्री श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा : (क) और (ख) राज्यों में डाकघरों का दर्जा बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार द्वारा निश्चित किए गए मानदंड विवरण में दिए गए हैं। (नीचे देखिए)

(ग) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान जिन डाकघरों का दर्जा बढ़ाया गया है, उनकी राज्यवार और वर्ष-वार संख्या विवरण-II में दी गई है (नीचे देखिए)

(घ) गुजरात में 1994-95, 1995-96 के दौरान और आज की तारीख तक जिन डाकघरों का दर्जा बढ़ाया गया, उनका विवरण नीचे दिया गया है:—