

35 recommendations contained in its Interim Report and 90 recommendations contained in the Final Report have sought to overcome the weaknesses of the Department and improve the quality of service.

Laying down the financial objectives of the postal services of the country requires careful examination taking into account the need for providing a reasonably low cost service to the people and at the same time reducing the dependence of the postal service on the general revenues. This is a continuous exercise.

The recommendations on the organisational restructuring made by the Expert Committee in its final report made available in November, 1989 are being processed. Regarding the recommendations on improving the quality of service, several task forces have been appointed to operationalise these recommendations and a beginning has been made in several areas like review of mail and delivery offices, laying down norms for urban delivery Post Offices and such other cost effective measures to improve mail services.

Regarding upgrading of Technology, areas needing mechanisation and computerisation have been identified for phased implementation during the 8th Plan.

Relations with Nepal

*24. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to improve relations with Nepal during the visit by the Nepalese Foreign Minister in February, 1990; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the acquisition of a large quantity of Chinese weaponry by Nepal has become a stumbling block in improving these relations; if

so, what is Nepal's stand on the supply of Chinese arms to Nepal in violation of Indo-Nepal Treaty; and

(c) what are the reasons for not taking early initiatives to improve relations with Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL):

(a) to (c) Government have taken early initiatives to improve our relations with Nepal. The Nepalese Foreign Minister, Shri S. K. Upadhyay, visited India from January 3 to 5, 1990. The discussions during his visit contributed to greater understanding of each other's interests and concerns.

Subsequently, official level talks were held between India and Nepal on February 20-21, 1990. They covered a wide range of subjects of mutual interest, trade, transit, economic cooperation, security perceptions, treatment of each others nationals, cooperation in the fields of industry, water resources etc. Progress was made towards a comprehensive appreciation of all outstanding problems.

It was agreed that during the next round of official talks, work would begin on documents to strengthen the close and age old Indo-Nepal relationship on an enduring basis.

Ship-repairing complex at Haldia

*25. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAM-RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for opening a ship repairing complex at Haldia in West Bengal; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any efforts have been made by Government to provide adequate finance for the establishment

of the above complex and whether any financial assistance has been sought from international banks or other financial institutions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the construction of the complex would begin and by when the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) There is no specific proposal under Government's consideration for opening of a ship-repairing complex at Haldia in West Bengal. The Government has, however, initiated a detailed study under the Technical Aid Programme of the Asian Development Bank for evaluating, among others, the existing ship-repairing facilities in the country and to recommend, if necessary, the setting up of additional ship-repairing facilities in India.

Proposal to send UN Observer to Kashmir

*26. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations propose to send an observer to Kashmir to investigate certain memoranda given to its Srinagar office by the JKLF; and

(b) if so, the exact status of the UN in Kashmir, and the number of UN personnel stationed in Jammu & Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJARAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The UN Military Observers Group was established specifically with reference to the old 1949 Cease-fire Line which has no validity any

longer. They have not been entrusted with any responsibility in regard to the present Line of Control in J & K. The U. N. Observers, although present on the Indian side of the Line of Control, are not performing any functions.

The size of UNMOGIP as of 1st June, 1980 is 37. Out of these, one is in Professional and Higher Category and the others are in Field Service Category.

Telecast of "Sword of Tipu Sultan"

*27. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee set up to review the serial 'Sword of Tipu Sultan' has cleared the serial for telecasting; if so, by when the serial will be telecast stating the number of episodes;

(b) whether the producer of the serial, Shri Sanjay Khan, had objected against the personnel of the Committee and whether he had submitted an alternative proposal; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to review all the serials in the pipeline; if so, the method adopted for scrutiny of such serials?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b) There is no special committee set up to review 'The Sword of Tipu Sultan'. The opinion of various persons is being ascertained with regard to the accurate depiction of events in the serial.

(c) Like all other serials and programmes, which are being reviewed by Review Committees, this too will be reviewed and telecast only after it is cleared by the Committee.