

(iii) & (iv) *Equal access in all spheres of economic activity; and right to own immovable property in India:* NRIs holding Indian Citizenship are treated at par with resident Indians for purposes of participating in all spheres of economic activity in India. Persons of Indian origin holding foreign citizenship are, however, not permitted to purchase agricultural/plantation property in India. NRIs can purchase property for residential purposes subject to the permission of the R. B. I. under Section 31 (1) of FERA. They can also purchase property necessary for carrying on commercial activities subject to clearance from the Reserve Bank of India under Section 29 of FERA.

Loss of video cassettes and Defence matter from Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar

206. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some important video cassettes on the strategic Siachin Glacier showing important locations and deployment of Indian troops have been found missing from the archives of Srinagar Doordarshan;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the outcome of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the missing video cassettes of vital military importance stating the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c) Reports to this effect appearing in a Section of the press were not substantiated on enquiry.

Fresh formula for resolving boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka

207. SHRI VISHWAS RAO RAM-RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved any fresh formula resolving the boundary dispute between Maharashtra and Karnataka; and,

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a-) and (b) The Government of India have boon of the view that this dispute can be resolved only with the willing cooperation of the State Governments concerned and towards this end the Central Government will be glad to extend all possible assistance to them....

Expansion of communication facility in Maharashtra

208. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government for expansion of Communication facility in remote and interior areas of Maharashtra; and

(b) what is the number of Post Offices, Telegraph Offices and Telephone Exchanges which are proposed to be opened in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) During the period 1-4-85 to 31-10-89, 203 new post offices have been opened in the rural areas of Maharashtra.

The existing policy of the Government regarding provision of telecom, facility in rural, hilly, tribal and backward areas (including remote and interior areas) is to provide at least one telecom, facility, on fully subsidised basis within" about 5 Kms. of every inhabited place. For this purpose country has been divided into hexagons of 5 Kms. sides each and a principal village preferably a Panchayat Headquarter in it is earmarked for providing telecom, facility. The facility in all such hexagons is to be provided progressively and to over all the hexagons by the end of 8th plan period. While seleefing hexagons for providing telecom, facility priority is given to hexagons with a population of 5000 or more in normal areas and 2000 or more in hilly and tribal areas.

There are a total of 4842 such inhabited Hexagons in Maharashtra Out of which 2929 Hexagons have been provided with Telecom, facility as on 31-3-89.

(b) There are proposals to open about 60 more Post Offices in the rural areas of the State by 31-3-1990 subject to approval of Ministry of Finance.

347 Long Distance Public Telephones are planned to be opened in rural areas, including remote and interior areas of Maharashtra during 1989-90. These opened in Post Offices will be provided with telegraph facility on phonocom basis.

As regards Telephone Exchanges the information is being collected and will furnished later on.

Pending cases of freedom fighters from Bihar

209. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases of freedom fighters pension, from Bihar pending for the last one year and two years respectively;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and.

(c) whether Government propose to take special steps to clear the said cases?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) to (c) The required information is as given below:—

(i) 4, 623 cases in which the State Govt, has recommended that the pension may not be sanctioned. These are pending for less than a year. These cases are pending because priority was given to those cases in which the State Govt, had recommended sanction of pension.

(ii) 186 cases in which the State Govt, have recommended sanction of pension but their recommendation has been received only recently i. e. after 31-10-1989.

(iii) 98 cases of those who have claimed participation in the Arya Samaj Movement in Hyderabad in 1938-39, the Non-Official Committee is to consider these cases. They have been requested to consider these cases early.

Notices to Villagers in Bharuch District under Official secrets Act

210. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that notices have been issued to a dozen villagers of Navgam in Bharuch District in the vicinity of Sardar Sarover Project as prohibited area under the Official Secrets Act of 1923;

(b) if so, whether these notices have been returned by the villagers; and