

and other facilities available to Extra-departmental employees now designated as Gramin Dak Sevaks.

The Committee submitted its report on 29-10-2008. The report was examined by the Department and discussed with the Unions. Final decision will be taken after obtaining approval of the Cabinet.

#### **Borders with Pakistan**

\*100. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether US wants India to de-escalate on the borders with Pakistan;
- (b) whether India's Foreign Secretary visited US to discuss 26/11 probe and also the nuclear deal in US;
- (c) if so, the outcome of discussions;
- (d) whether India has now decided to replicate some US anti-terror strategies; and
- (e) if so, the points on which the US-India terrorist strategies have been adopted and the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) It has been India's long standing policy that India-Pakistan relations are a bilateral concern of both countries and there is no room for any involvement by third countries.

(b) and (c) Foreign Secretary visited the United States of America during 9-11 March 2009 to establish contact with the new US Administration who consulted him on the new US strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan. He discussed bilateral relations with his US counterpart including implementation of the Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement.

- (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.

#### **-----** **WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

##### **EXPANSION OF SCOUT GUIDES**

570. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made adequate provision for expanding the Scout Guides like the NSS and NCC in schools for inculcating values of discipline; patriotism, brotherhood, secularism etc. in the minds of school boys and girls;
- (b) if so, the budget that is earmarked for the purpose in the Eleventh Plan; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the Eleventh Plan period a budget projection of Rs. 15 Crores has been made to broad base and mainstream scouting and guiding.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Budget for youth and sports**

571. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Youth Affairs and Sports budget is adequate to meet the needs of youth and sports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the strategy of Government to increase the sports and youth activities;
- (c) the total assistance given to various States in five years for new Stadium and Sports Hostel; and
- (d) whether it is a fact that Orissa State is getting the minimum allotment in spite of doing much better in Hockey, Cricket and Football?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Revised Estimate for the financial year 2008-09 of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports was Rs. 1311 crore (Plan). The Budget Allocation of the Ministry for the year 2009-10 is Rs.2699 crore (Plan).

In order to increase sports activities, the Government of India has launched a nationwide scheme for the promotion of rural sports infrastructure. Under the scheme, which has been named as Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan, all village and block Panchayats and their equivalent administrative units will be provided with basic sports infrastructure in phased manner over a period of 10 years by covering 10% each year. The scheme also provides for organizing rural sports competitions at block, district, state and national level. The scheme is expected to promote mass participation in sports among youth leading to a healthy and socially inclusive society and participation of youth in community development.

In so far as increase in youth activities are concerned, the strategy of the Ministry is to help bring about social transformation in rural areas by promoting and developing among the youth, awareness and commitment to values of national integration, discipline, secularism and citizenship. The Ministry also strives to imbibe a spirit of voluntarism and community service in the young minds of students. In order to achieve the above, the Ministry has already initiated action to expand the programmes of the schemes namely, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Scouting and Guiding and the National Service Scheme.

(c) Till 31st March, 2005, the Ministry was supplementing the efforts of the State Government for creation of Sports facilities including construction of Stadia, Sports Hostels and other sports infrastructure. However, with effect from 01.4.2005, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Creation of