

Performance of Panchayats

533. SHRI RAMESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article published in 'Yojana' at page 9 of 16-30 September, 1983, regarding the problems which the Panchayats are facing in the country which has resulted in poor performance of rural development projects; and

(b) if so, the corrective measures which Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI HARI NATHA MISRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Panchayati Raj is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the State Governments to enact appropriate legislation to administer panchayati Raj bodies and also to vest in them such powers and functions as may be considered necessary. The Central Government has been advising the States from time to time to strengthen Panchayati Raj institutions and also to augment their financial resources and to provide adequate trained manpower for Panchayati Raj bodies. Panchayati Raj institutions are also to be actively involved in the implementation of various rural development programme.

534. [Transferred to the 7th December, 1983]

Set-back in Indo-Nepal Relations

535. SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a set-back in the Indo-Nepal relations during the past few months;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A. A. RAHIM): (a) to (c) No, Sir, there is no set-back in Indo-Nepal relations. A succession of recent events might have conveyed such an impression. The incidents, which took place independently of each other, were:—

(1) the arrest of a group of Nepalese in District Darjeeling for entry into restricted area of India without valid permits as required under the restricted/protected areas orders in force for all foreigners;

(2) the deportation by the Kathmandu Police of a few hundred Indians from the Valley to India on the alleged ground that they were encroaching on municipal land; and

(3) the clash between the Bihar Police and a gang of criminals indulging in illegal felling of trees in the jungles of District West Champaran bordering Nepal.

The Embassy of India in Nepal has been in touch with the Nepalese Government on all these matters.

Central Assistance for Flood Relief to Uttar Pradesh

536. SHR RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a Central Team visited UP to assess the loss suffered due to the floods and the State's need for the relief work; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the details of Central assistance given to the State Government of UP to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir, A Central team visited some of the flood affected areas in Uttar Pradesh in three spells (i) from 10th