

(c) It is proposed to strengthen existing programmes and also to take up new programmes for the physically handicapped during the Sixth Plan.

(d) The details of the important schemes for education, training and rehabilitation of the handicapped are given below:—

(i) Four National Institutes for the visually handicapped, orthopaedically handicapped, hearing handicapped and mentally retarded are planned for the purpose of training education and for undertaking research. The first two have already been established.

(ii) Many institutions for education, training and rehabilitation of handicapped under government and voluntary sector are functioning. Voluntary Organisations are provided assistance under the schemes of 'Assistance to Voluntary Organisations' by the Government.

(iii) Under the scheme of Integrated Education for handicapped an endeavour is made to impart education in normal schools.

(iv) Physically handicapped students are given scholarships under the scheme of scholarship for the physically handicapped.

(v) For encouraging self employment, 10 per cent of all dealerships/agencies of the oil companies are reserved for physically handicapped persons, other than defence personnel disabled in war for whom there is separate reservation.

(vi) A working capital loan upto Rs. 1500/- and a term loan upto Rs. 5,000/- are made available to physically handicapped persons and institutions working for welfare of handicapped at differential rate of interest i.e. 4 per cent per annum.

(vii) 18 Special Employment Exchanges are functioning for securing placement to the physically handi-

capped persons. Vocational training is arranged for physically handicapped persons through 11 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres to help them secure gainful employment.

(e) It is not possible to compute this because of a number of unquantifiable variable data.

Direct Dialling Service with neighbouring countries

1351. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries with whom direct dialling service exists;

(b) whether there is any plan under Government's consideration to have such service with all the neighbouring countries in the South Asia; and

(c) if so, the target date fixed for the implementation of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) to (c) Direct dialling telephone service is at present available only to United Kingdom from Bombay and Madras (complete), the large exchanges in Delhi and a few exchanges in Calcutta. The question of extension of direct dialling services to other countries from these cities will be considered in a phased manner, depending on the expansion of the International Automatic Trunk Exchanges (Gateway Centres) at Bombay and New Delhi and the installation of the proposed ones at Madras and Calcutta and the traffic.

Setting up of a commission to enquire into Rural Indebtedness

1352. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Commission to enquire into