

the 4th plan has been continued during the 5th Plan and present plan. Under the scheme, financial assistance is being provided to lay out demonstrations (@ 275/ha) on farmers' field to motivate them to adopt improved practices. The financial assistance is also provided to State Governments for seed multiplication for supply to farmers as given below:

(i) <i>Breeders seed</i>	Subsidy/ctl Rs.
Moong, Urd and Cowpea	500
Lentil	350
Gram and arhar	300
Peas	200
(ii) Certified seed	150

25 per cent subsidy on the cost of plant protection chemicals (subject to a maximum of Rs. 30/ha depending upon the chemical used) is given for adoption of plant protection measures by the farmers in cultivation of pulse crops. In addition ground/aerial operational charges @Rs. 15/ha and Rs. 27.50/ha respectively for undertaking plant protection measures are also being given from 1980-81. Funds are also provided for strengthening and equipping the microbiological labs, and also as contingencies for production of rhizobium culture in large quantities for supply to the farmers for use in pulses cultivation.

During 1980-81, the administrative approval for an amount of Rs. 228.124 lakh has been accorded in which Central Government share is Rs. 163.403 lakh for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme on development of pulses.

Delay in phone call booking in Kerala

1407. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent newspaper reports appearing in Malayalam

Press regarding the delay in getting letters and phone call bookings in Kerala in general and Kottayam District in particular; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps are being taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):

(a) The term 'delay in phone call bookings' is not clear. It is presumed that the honourable member means delay in answers from trunk call booking number. There are no significant delays in trunk call booking and delay in getting letters in Kottayam District and Kerala Circle. Occasional delays are sometimes observed due to staff absenteeism.

(b) Efforts are being made to reduce absenteeism by tightening discipline and supervision.

Foreign students in Indian Universities

1408. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of foreign students studying in the Indian universities during 1978-79 and 1979-80; and

(b) whether any regulatory mechanisms are being devised in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) According to the information furnished by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the number of foreign students in the Indian universities