

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up a Core Group to coordinate the construction work in Tsunami-hit areas and also to explore the areas where external assistance is desirable;

(b) when the operation of the Core Group is expected to start; and

(c) what is the fund allocation therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The Government of India has set up a Core Group on Reconstruction, Management and Monitoring for Tsunami affected areas in the Planning Commission. The Core Group has prepared a comprehensive plan for rehabilitation and reconstruction of Tsunami affected areas at an estimated cost of about Rs. 9300.00 crore. The Plan has taken into account the possible external assistance from multilateral agencies namely World Bank, Asian Development Bank and UN agencies. The funds will be allocated after the recommendation of the Core Group are approved by the Government of India.

Video conferenceing facilities in jails

3015. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to give financial assistance to State Government for setting up of Video Conferencing facilities in prison;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT) (a) and (b) There is no such proposal.

(c) Under the scheme of Modernisation of Prisons, the Union Government is providing financial assistance to State Governments on cost sharing basis in the ratio of 75:25 for construction of additional prisons to reduce overcrowding, expansion, repair and renovation of existing prisons, improvement in sanitation and water supply and living accommodation for prisons staff. The scheme does not cover any other item for assistance at present.