

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Twenty-eight.

(b) An amount of Rs. 2, 15, 800 was sanctioned.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Farmers' resentment,

240. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the resentment amongst the farmers all through the country because of their not getting remunerative prices for their produce; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) The Government are aware of the demands concerning prices of agricultural produce. Government have already taken a number of steps. The support prices of various crops have been raised by the Government. During 1980-81, the Government have raised the procurement prices of paddy and coarse kharif cereals by 10.5 per cent over the last year's level. Increase of the same order in the support price of cotton has also been made. As regards sugarcane, the farmers are getting prices in the range of Rs. 190 to 250 per tonne. In the case of onions, marketing support at a price of Rs. 45 to Rs. 60 per quintal was provided through NAFED prior to December, 1980. Over 2, 07, 000 tonnes were purchased by NAFED. For this purpose, the Central Government provided a financial support of Rs. 62 crores to NAFED. During the current agricultural season when the crop arrived in the market in December-January, purchases have been made by NAFED and Maharashtra State Cooperative Marketing Federa-

tion to the extent of 30, 000 tonnes, each in the price range of Rs. 55—70 and later Rs. 60—75 per quintal. The terms of reference of the Agricultural Prices Commission were amended in March, 1980 and the Commission have been asked to take into account the terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sector also while recommending the level of prices.

#### Installation of cross bar exchange

241. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cross bar system is not working to the satisfaction of the subscribers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to start more cross bar exchanges in the disto-rent areas; and

(c) what is the number of telephone connections that have been issued during 1980 under the cross bar system and how much amount has been spent so far for installing cross bar exchanges in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) No, Sir. The cross bar exchanges are working satisfactorily in the country at present, although there were some initial problems when these exchanges were introduced in sixties.

(b) Yes, Sir, cross bar exchanges manufactured by I. T. I., Bangalore are being installed regularly. Certain cross bar exchanges are also being installed by import.

(c) During the calendar year 1980, 68, 200 lines capacity has been added in 24 cross bar exchanges in the country.

During the financial year 1979-80, ₹ 600 lines of exchange capacity and 67, 110 telephone connections were added in the country in cross bar exchanges.

It has not been possible to get an accurate estimate of total expenditure on installation of cross bar exchanges so far. During 1980, the expenditure is estimated to be about Rs 21.27 crores.

#### Shortage of bread

242. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA  
NAIDU: SHRI RAMANAND  
YADAV: SHRIMATI. AMARJIT  
KAUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is great shortage of bread and other essential commodities in the fair price shops as well as in private trading centres of Delhi, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that the manufacturers of breads are not getting adequate quota of Maida from flour mills in Delhi;

(c) whether the flour mills as well as public distributing centres (Fair Price Shops) are not getting timely supplies of the essential commodities like wheat, rice and sugar from the Food Corporation of India; and

(d) if the answer to parts (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government have taken to see that the manufacturers of bread get maida and the Fair Price Shops get essential supplies of commodities like sugar, wheat and rice to be sold to the citizens of Delhi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) There has been no great shortage of essential commodities in private trading centres of Delhi or fair price shops.

(b) Some complaints from the bread manufacturers regarding inadequate supply of maida from the roller flour mills were received by Delhi Administration in January, 1981. Action was taken by them to meet the demands of Maida in full.

(c) Barring occasional delay in supply of wheat and sugar, there had been no shortage of rice at fair price shops.

(d) The roller flour mills located in Delhi have been asked to meet the requirements of bread manufacturers in Delhi in full and at present there is no complaint from the bread manufacturers regarding short supplies of maida. Regarding wheat and sugar, efforts are continuously being made to supply reasonable quantities to the Union Territory of Delhi.

#### Saving of Taj Mahal

243. SHRI HARVENDAR SINGH,  
HANS PAL: Will the Minister of  
EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether apprehensions have been expressed at the Indian Science Congress at Varanasi recently that Taj is in real danger of suffering irreparable damages;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in the matter; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to save Taj, especially in view of the oil refinery being set up at Mathura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI MATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) Apprehensions about damage to the Taj Mahal were expressed in a paper on air pollution, presented at the recent session of the Science Congress held at Varanasi.

(b) and (c) The Government has already seized of the problems and has decided to control the existing