

Overtime allowance paid to P & T staff

748. SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Times of India (Delhi Edition) dated the 24th October, 1980 under the caption "P & T overtime soars to Rs. 26.67 crores";

(b) whether this overtime is due to staff shortage; and

(c) what remedial measures Government propose to take to reduce this expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is also partly due to shortage of the staff. Absenteeism of staff, occasional sudden rush of work, maintenance of essential services on holidays etc. in operative offices are the other factors which involve payment of overtime allowance.

(c) The P & T being a public utility Department, it has to provide essential services to the public. The nature of work performed in the operative offices is such that it cannot be postponed till the next working day in the public interest. Grant of overtime to the staff, therefore, becomes inevitable. The control on this expenditure is exercised by fixing every year certain limits of overtime expenditure for every unit and the performance of the units is watched through periodical expenditure statements prescribed in this behalf. In this year special instructions have been issued to the units for exercising strictest economy while ordering the staff for overtime duty as it is expected that there will be substantial reduction of expenditure during this year.

Foodgrains lying in FCI godowns in Moga Division

749. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stocks of foodgrains worth crores of rupees are still lying in Food Corporation of India godowns in Moga division for the last several years;

(b) whether Government are also aware that several thousand bags of grain stolen from Government godowns have been sold to local traders at nominal prices;

(c) if so, whether Government have conducted any inquiry into this matter;

(d) the reasons for not despatching those stocks in time to the needy States; and

(e) the action taken by Government against the defaulting officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) There is a stock of about 2.71 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains with the Food Corporation of India in Moga Sub-Division of Faridkot District. Of this about 6,000 tonnes relate to the year 1977-78, about 69,000 tonnes to 1978-79 and the balance 1.96 lakh tonnes to 1979-80 and 1980-81.

(b) No such reports have been received by the Food Corporation of India or the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Food Corporation are procuring fresh stocks of foodgrains under the price support scheme and against levy, every year. Movement from out of the procured stock and inflow of fresh stocks on fresh procurement takes place every year. Movement programmes are drawn up every month for despatch of stocks from FCI godowns to other States with due regard to the requirements of those States. Proper care is taken