

Scientific utilisation of warehouses and warehousing space

815. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for the scientific utilisation of warehouses and warehousing space for the agricultural production;

(b) whether it is a fact that this space is not being utilised fully and scientifically at present;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the available warehousing space has not been fully harnessed; and

(d) whether any effort has been made by the Government to educate the farmers about the importance of warehousing and to get the maximum price of their products by following the specifications and guidelines meant for this purpose and if so, with what results and whether any feedback information service is working for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Warehousing of agricultural produce in the public sector is mainly being done by the Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations which have built scientific warehousing facilities. Besides, the warehouses of the Food Corporation are also used for scientific storage of procured foodgrains. For providing warehousing facilities to the farmers, a scheme has been recently started which envisages construction of small size warehouses for a cluster of villages.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. The capacity with the Central Warehousing Corporation is being gainfully and scientifically utilised.

(d) Central and State warehouses functioning near the rural areas act as demonstration centres for the farmers in educating them about the benefits of scientific warehouses. Central Warehousing Corporation allows a rebate in the storage charges to the far-

mers for their produce stored in the central warehouses. Farmers' Extension Service has been introduced recently by CWC at one selected warehouses in each region to educate farmers of the advantages of scientific storage. Under the Save Grain Campaign Scheme, farmers are being educated about the simple scientific techniques of preservation of foodgrains, the reaction to which is encouraging.

Transfer of appropriate technology to rural areas

816. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to transfer appropriate technology to rural areas and progress so far made;

(b) what is the impact of this transfer of technology on the economic conditions of the rural poor;

(c) what are the reasons for not implementing the various schemes and proposals already formulated in this regard and for which the budget provisions have been made; and

(d) whether there has been any decisions of Government for fixing accountability of these lapses and whether they have been reinforced and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Cutting of telephone connections without serving registered notices

817. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone connections are cut for non-payment of dues without serving proper notices to the subscriber;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in this direction to rectify the legal lapse on the part of the Telephone Department;

(c) whether it is a fact that cyclo-styled letters are sent to the subscribers who complained about excess meter readings without actually checking the detective meters;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is no coordination between the Area Managers, Accounts Officers and Supervisory Engineers, with the result that the subscriber has to suffer for this lapse; and

(e) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to take the help of *bonafide* voluntary agencies, students and social organisations to weed out the malpractices and corruption rampant in the telephone department and random investigations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The complaints received are investigated from all angles before sending a reply.

(d) No, Sir. Accounts Officers and Supervisory Engineers are under the Administrative control of respective Area Managers.

(e) No, Sir. This is not considered necessary.

Augmentations of postal services

818. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the facilities for the delivery of postal dak are not available to all the villages in the country;

(b) if so, what steps Government are contemplating for augmenting these services; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to appoint teachers of village primary schools as postal agents on honorarium-cum-commission basis where the post office facility is not available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Agents are appointed on commission basis for sale of stamps and stationery in backward hilly and tribal areas where opening of post offices is not justified on the basis of departmental norms. Teachers of village primary schools are also eligible for such appointments

Complaints regarding admission of students in Delhi Colleges

819. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received many complaints regarding admission of students in the Delhi colleges this year;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what remedial steps Government have taken in the matter?

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

(a) to (c). According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, there have been cases in which students with lesser percentage of marks in the qualifying examination have been admitted in preference to those securing a higher percentage.

As in the past, the Vice-Chancellor has constituted a Grievance Committee to look into the specific grievances brought to the notice of the University in regard to admissions. This Committee looks into the cases referred to above and wherever there is a violation of the procedures, the college con-