

and Punjab. Further, with the possibility of import of neat Liquefied Petroleum Gas, there is likely to be a further improvement in cooking gas supply in the ensuing months.

Wrong billing by telephone exchanges

141. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:

SHRI SUJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone system is not functioning properly in several telephone exchanges in Delhi and in several other towns of the country;

(b) whether Government have received complaints regarding increase in wrong billing of trunk-call charges and other telephone bills; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to improve the proper functioning of the telephones in Delhi and in other towns of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) No, Sir. However, there is some deterioration noticed in respect of Calcutta Telephones primarily due to the faults in the underground cable network.

(b) No, Sir. As per records of the Deptt, there has been no increase in the percentage of complaints against telephone bills.

(c) As a part of the general policy to further improve the service a number of short and long term measures are being implemented progressively. Some of which are given below—

(i) Improved construction practices and acceptance testing of underground cable during the laying.

(ii) Gas Pressurisation of junction and primary cables as a preventive maintenance technique.

(iii) Use of jelly filled cables in distribution cable network to prevent ingress of moisture.

(iv) Use of cable ducts in selected congested routes so as to protect new cables from damage.

(v) Use of microwave/PCM media for local junctions to improve reliability and availability.

(vi) Use of charge analysers in connection with billing complaints.

Foodgrains Review Mission

142. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:

SHRI SUJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has sent a Foodgrains Review Mission to report on the food-grain situation in West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) A Joint Government of India/World Bank Working Party undertook Foodgrains Review in the Eastern Region during 1976. The review covered the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam besides Uttar Pradesh.

(b) The main purpose of the Eastern Region Foodgrains Review was to assess the agriculture resources of the Region, to review on-going development plans and to help design action programme and identify projects for quick increases in foodgrains production. The Review was to identify short-term and long-term development actions needed (a) to accelerate foodgrains production in the Region; and (b) to increase rural employment and improve the productivity of small farmers.

Based on the recommendations of the Review, a programme for re-

organisation of agricultural extension etc. has been taken up under World Bank Projects in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam.

Indians sent to USA as visiting professors

143. SHRI SUJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the American Studies Research Centre, Hyderabad has sought Central Government's permission for sending Indians as visiting professors to the USA; and

(b) if so, what is the number of such cases where approval was sought and what is the number of cases where permission was granted?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sports policy

144. SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA: SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABIBULLAH: SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to formulate a sports policy in the near future; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The Government had asked the All India Council of Sports in 1978 to formulate a draft National Sports Policy. It is understood that the Council is consulting the various sports interests to finalise its approach. The Government will consider the matter after the proposals of the AICS are received.

Supply of crude oil

145. SHRI ROSHAN LAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the position regarding supply of crude oil is not likely to ease in the near future;

(b) whether it is also a fact that new experiments are being made to use power alcohol as a substitute for petrol; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) During the past few years we have been meeting crude oil requirements by importing 15 to 17 million tonnes of crude oil every year. No difficulties are envisaged in the import of our full anticipated requirements of our imported crude during the year 1960-31. Efforts are at an advanced stage to tie up all requirements.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Deterioration of telephone services in Delhi and Calcutta

146. SHRI ROSHAN LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone service in Delhi has further deteriorated during the last two years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in cities like Calcutta telephone service has almost collapsed; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps Government are taking to improve the present situation in these cities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. There is, however, some deterioration in telephone service in Calcutta city primarily