

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-