

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (c) Many representations have been received from the sugar traders in which suggestions have been made for the scrapping of partial control on sugar, ban on the export of sugar, and increase in the stock holding limits. The Bombay Sugar Merchants Association have also submitted a proposal that the present levy to free-sale ratios may be changed from 65:35 to 50:50.

(d) The partial control on sugar was introduced only on 17th December, 1979 after a review of the sugar policy. A close and continued watch on the price trend, availability and other aspects is being kept by the Government. The increase in the stock holding limit and reduction in the levy ratio to free-sale, in Government's view are not likely to stabilise the rise in sugar prices. The Government have, however, decided to restrict the export of sugar to the minimum required under commitments already made.

Shortage of fertilizer

529. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country will face to the extent of 40 per cent shortage of fertilizers this year;

(b) if so, what was the position during 1979;

(c) whether there will be an increase in the production of fertilizers during the current year; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) It is estimated that there is likely to be 19.8% increase in the production of fertilisers during 1980-81 over that in 1979-80.

Pensioners drawing pensions from G.P.O. Delhi/New Delhi

530. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the G.P.O. Delhi/New Delhi have received any requests from the pensioners for drawing their pensions from Delhi/New Delhi post offices instead of post offices from which they had been drawing their pensions at present;

(b) if so, what are the details of such applications received since April, 1979;

(c) what is the number out of them on which action has been taken; and

(d) what is the number of remaining applications which have not been disposed of so far and by when a final action is likely to be taken on these applications?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been request from eighty-seven pensioners as per details given in the Annexe. [See Appendix CXIII, Annexure No. 36].

(c) and (d) Out of these eighty-seven cases, action has already been completed in respect of eighty-six cases. The remaining one case is under correspondence with the Treasury Officer, Ranchi.

Extension of S.T.D. facilities to district headquarters from the State capitals

531. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration, to extend the S.T.D. facilities to all district headquarters from their respective State capitals;

(b) how many of the district headquarters are now having the S.T.D. facility; State-wise; and

(c) by when all the district headquarters are likely to be linked with Delhi by S.T.D.?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of the States and the No. of districts headquarters connected by STD to the State capital are given below:—

Andhra Pradesh	8
Assam	Nil
Bihar	8
Gujarat	5
Haryana	1
Himachal Pradesh	1
Jammu & Kashmir	2
Kerala	8
Karnataka	7
Madhya Pradesh	4
Manipur	Nil
Meghalaya	Nil
Maharashtra	7
Nagaland	Nil
Orissa	1
Rajasthan	1
Punjab	4
Tamil Nadu	8
Tripura	Nil
West Bengal	4
Uttar Pradesh	8
Sikkim	Nil

(c) Linking with Delhi, of all the district headquarters by STD, is likely to be achieved by the end of this decade.

Dindigul Telephone Exchange

532. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Dindigul Chamber of Commerce as well as the general public to convert the manual telephone exchange into an automatic exchange at Dindigul;

(b) whether Government have made any study of the representation;

(c) whether Government propose to take up the scheme in the near future;

(d) if so, by when the work is likely to be completed; end

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) An automatic exchange has already been planned and sanctioned. Building is under construction. Equipment has been ordered. Barring any unforeseen problems, an automatic exchange is expected to be commissioned in 1982.

(e) Does not arise.

The Friends Central Government Employees Cooperative House Building Society Ltd.

533. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Friends Central Government Employees Cooperative House Building Society Ltd., New Delhi had a verified membership of 252 members on 1st January, 1978;

(b) whether it is also a fact that previous elections of the society held by the Cooperative Department Delhi Administration were based on this verified number;

(c) whether the rights of these verified members are to be re-determined by re-verification of their bona fides when they have given fresh affidavits again during, 1978; and

(d) what are the reasons for the delay in the allotment of plots to the society?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.