

Extension of S.T.D. facilities from Delhi to cities of West Bengal

*219. SHRI SYED SHAHEDULLAH:
SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH
SURJEET:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to connect Asansol, Raniganj, Durgapur and Burdwan with Delhi through STD facilities;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Burdwan is shortly expected to be connected with Delhi by STD through Calcutta and Delhi Trunk Automatic Exchanges. Asansol, Raniganj and Durgapur are planned to be connected with Delhi by STD, in the year 1980-81, on completion of a direct link between the Asansol Automatic Exchange and the Delhi Trunk Automatic Exchange.

(c) Does not arise.

Shortfall in production of wheat

*220. SHRIMATI HAMIDA HABI-BULLAH:
SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are anticipating shortfall in the production of wheat in the country due to failure of the monsoons last year;

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

(c) how Government propose to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Final estimates of production of wheat for 1979-80 have not yet become available from different State Governments. However, according to present reports, the production of wheat during 1979-80 may be only marginally lower than the record level of 35 million tonnes in 1978-79. There are sufficient stocks of food-grains with the Government to make good the nominal decline in wheat production during the current year.

Houses built for plantation labour

†*220-A. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses built for plantation labour during the last three years;

(b) whether the employees abide by the rule enjoining provision of 10 per cent housing every year;

(c) whether he is aware that there is paucity of accommodation for plantation labour and more than 2-3 families stay in one tenement; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to improve the housing conditions in plantations?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) 11,132.

(b) Employers are required to build houses for at least 8 per cent of the resident workers every year. Many of the employers are employing with this provision and others are being persuaded by concerned State Governments to do so.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Subsidised Housing Scheme for Plantation Workers has been introduced precisely with the object of improving their housing conditions.

†Previously Starred Question 188 transferred from the 25th March, 1980.