

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: About the earlier part I might say that the Chief Minister of West Bengal did make the position clear but he did so very late in the day when the mischief had already been committed by one of their Ministers earlier. The Chief Minister's statement came very late in the day but the mischief had been done and unfortunately the desertion had already started. About the second part, it is true ... (Interruptions). There are two parts. One is the rehabilitation part. The other is whether the Dandakaranya irrigation project is being gone through. It was definitely going at a snail's pace. Things were conceived somewhere in 1965 and in 1964 they started at a snail's pace. I must say that the irrigation scheme was moving at a very slow pace and I can assure this House and the hon. Member that we have expedited and accelerated the pace of that irrigation scheme and we hope that everything will be complete by 1982-83.

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON: What about the Estimate Committee's report?

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE: Does the hon. Minister know that the report of the three MPs. deputed by the ruling party has been made public yesterday in a press conference?

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: Yes, Sir. I know that.

SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE: Therefore, there is no reason...

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Then he is misleading the House by saying that he does not know the salient features.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: I have read a newspaper report. The formal mention of it has to come from the Janata Parliamentary Party after they have considered it. That is what I have been saying.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: Now he has been caught.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you need not reply.

Distribution of wheat and rice in States under the "Food for Work" programme

*22. SHRI BHABANI CHARAN

PATTANAYAK: SHRI

BHAIRAB CHANDRA

MAHANTI: SHRI

DHANESWAR MAJHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what was the quantum of wheat and rice given to each State during the year 1978-79 under the 'Food for Work' programme and at what rates;

(b) what is the number of persons benefited by the scheme and what is the number of employment days resulted State-wise; and

(c) what are the types of work executed through this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRASAD SINGH): (a) Statement-I indicating the quantities of wheat and rice given to each State during the year 1978-79 under 'Food for Work' Programme is laid on the Table of the House. Foodgrains under the programme are given free to the State Governments.

(b) Statement-II indicating the number of mandays of employment generated State-wise and number of the persons likely to be benefited by the scheme upto 30th September, 1978 is also laid on the Table of the House.

(c) A list indicating the types of works executed through the programme is also laid on the Table of the House. (Statement-III).

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bhabani Charan Pattanayak.

Statement I

| State | Quantity released (M.T.) | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| | Wheat | Rice |
| 1. Andhra Pradesh | 61,000 | 65,000 |
| 2. Assam | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| 3. Bihar | 2,00,000 | .. |
| 4. Gujarat | 15,000 | .. |
| 5. Haryana | 20,000 | .. |
| 6. Jammu and Kashmir | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| 7. Karnataka | 7,000 | 8,000 |
| 8. Himachal Pradesh | 1,500 | .. |
| 9. Kerala | 13,000 | 13,000 |
| 10. Madhya Pradesh | 1,02,000 | 25,000 |
| 11. Maharashtra | 35,000 | 5,000 |
| 12. Nagaland | 750 | 750 |
| 13. Orissa | 1,54,000 | 49,000 |
| 14. Punjab | 32,000 | .. |
| 15. Rajasthan | 2,61,000 | .. |
| 16. Tripura | 6,000 | 2,000 |
| 17. Uttar Pradesh | 1,25,500 | 10,500 |
| 18. West Bengal | 1,50,000 | .. |
| 19. Mizoram | 1,200 | .. |
| | 11,92,950 | 1,86,250 |

NOTE (1). Issue price of wheat was Rs. 125 per quintal prior to 1-12-1978 and Rs. 130 per quintal, thereafter. In case of rice the issue price is Rs. 135 per quintal for coarse (short bold) and Rs. 150 per quintal for medium (long bold).

NOTE (2). Rates for calculating additionality of expenditure over and above the existing provision in the State budget are Rs. 10 less than the rates indicated in Note (1) above.

Statement II

Employment generated under "Food for work" programme during the year 1978-79

| State | Employment generated (in lakh mandays) 1978-79 (upto 30-9-1978) | @Persons likely to be benefited (in lakhs) (Noa.) |
|---------------------|--|--|
| 1. Andhra Pradesh | 49.392 | 1.646 |
| 2. Assam | NR | NR |
| 3. Bihar | 77.720 | 2.590 |
| 4. Gujarat | 37.760 | 1.258 |
| 5. Haryana | NR | NR |
| 6. Himachal Pradesh | 1.205 | 0.040 |
| 7. Karnataka | 0.868 | 0.028 |
| 8. Kerala | 24.993 | 0.833 |
| 9. Madhya Pradesh | NR | NR |
| 10. Maharashtra | *28.100 | 0.624 |
| 11. Orissa | 175.640 | 5.855 |
| 12. Punjab | 9.151 | 0.305 |
| 13. Rajasthan | 53.760 | 1.792 |
| 14. Tripura | NR | NR |
| 15. Uttar Pradesh | 27.953 | 0.931 |
| 16. West Bengal | 67.650 | 2.255 |
| 17. Mizoram | 0.011 | 0.003 |
| | 554.203 | 18.160 |

*Relates till the period ending 31-12-1978.

N. R. : Reports not received.

©Each person employed on the works under the programme in different areas got work for 30 days and on, during the period from 1-4-78 to 30-9-78 at an average and in case of Maharashtra @45 day/3 upto 31-12-1978.

Statement III

Nature of scheme being implemented under "Food for Work" programme

(i) Major, medium and minor irrigation works;

(ii) Flood protection drainage and anti-water logging works;

(iii) Soil and water conservation, land reclamation;

(iv) Afforestation and social forestry works on Government and community lands including lands belonging to local bodies like panchayats etc. roads side plantation, plantations along canal banks and on waste lands on sides of railway lines etc.

(v) Construction of intermediate and main drains field channels, land levelling etc. in the command areas of irrigation projects; cleaning and desilting of water courses etc.

(vi) Roads including State highways; widening and strengthening of forest roads and canal service roads for throwing them for public use;

(vii) School buildings, panchayat ghars, community centres, drinking water wells belonging to Government and local bodies including panchayat or the community in rural areas provided provision for expenditure on such schemes is reflected in the State budget;

(viii) Providing a village pond or repairs thereto or deepening and rejuvenation of an existing tank for providing water for human use or for cattle or for developing irrigation and fisheries etc.

SHRI BHABANI CHARAN PATTANAYAK: May I know, Sir, what is the total amount so far spent for this purpose and what is the future programme of the Government and what will be the amount to be spent? Secondly, I want to know whether the Government has any information regarding harassment by the FCI officers to the people at the time of deli-

very of the foodgrains and, if so, whether the Government is going to take any action.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Sir, the total utilisation of foodgrains under this scheme during the year 1978-79 is 13,78,000 tonnes. As regards the future, we have taken a tentative decision that we would allocate out of 1.5 million tonnes. During the coming rainy season the valuation of the works will be done and after that if the results are found to be satisfactory, then perhaps we may consider increasing the total quantity of foodgrains to be utilised for this scheme. As regards the harassment by the FCI staff, I would like to inform the House that all the State Governments have been authorised to check the quality of foodgrains before taking deliveries. In fact, they have been asked to send a joint inspection team to check the quality before taking delivery of the stocks. We have not received any complaints about the quality of foodgrains from the State Governments.

SHRI BHABANI CHARAN PATTANAYAK: Sir, may I know, whether it is not a fact that from Bhubaneswar and Berhampur FCI staff are taking money for each bag of good rice or wheat?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: I am not aware of this. If the Member sends this complaint to me in writing, I will get it investigated.

SHRI BHABANI CHARAN PATTANAYAK: Are you going to make an inquiry into this complaint?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you send any complaint, he is prepared to look into it. That he has said already.

SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA MAHANTI: From Statement No. I it appears that the wheat released amounts to 11,92,950 metric tonnes and the rice amounts to 1,86,250 metric tonnes. As you know, the Southern and Eastern States of this country are mostly rice-eating. Will the Minister

consider and say whether he will be in a position to allocate more rice for this 'food for work' programme to the Southern and Eastern States? Then from the second statement I find that much of the advantage of the 'food for work' programme has been taken by my State i.e. Orissa where the employment generated in terms of lakhs of man-days is 175,640 and the number of persons likely to be benefited is 5,855 lakhs. As you know, Orissa is proverbially a poor State. Will the Minister say that if the Government of Orissa asks for more of foodgrains for the 'food for work' programme in the rural areas and other areas, he will consider it favourably and allocate more foodgrain;'/

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: As regards the first part of the question, the State Governments have been informed that they can get any of the two foodgrains according to their choice. There is no limit either on wheat or on rice. Whatever they are willing to take, we are willing to give. As regards the second part, whether the share of the Orissa Government will be retained at the same level as last year or it will be increased, I cannot make any commitment just now. The situation so far has been that we place no ceiling on the quantity made available to the State Governments because they were flew in coming up with this scheme. But now the demand has increased so much that we will have to place a certain ceiling on the quantity that we give to the State Governments; and because that ceiling will be based on certain criteria, I cannot make any prior commitment about any particular State. That is being worked out and we will soon inform the State Governments what they can expect from the Centre.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Majhi—not there.

SHRI V. OOPALSAMY: From the reply given by the hon. Minister and from study of the tables, it is clear

that the State of Tamil Nadu was not given any assistance of wheat or rice under the 'food for work' programme in the year 1978-79. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government is reluctant to help the Tamil Nadu State or whether the State Government had not made any request last year?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Sir, we are not at all reluctant; in fact, the State Government itself was reluctant to take up this scheme.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: Is it a fact that the requirement that are placed before the Central Government by the different State Governments are not being met? Have you prescribed a uniform rate of wages to be given to the persons engaged in work under the Food-for-Work Programme? And, thirdly, since the scheme is meant both for the people who are mostly unemployed or under-employed who do not have sufficient purchasing power for making purchase of materials, do you think of giving the same subsidy for rice which you are giving for wheat? Because of the difference between these subsidies, the people have changed their habit from rice-eating to wheat-eating because it is cheaper. Otherwise they would not have done so. With the result, you are offering to give 1 lakh odd metric tonnes of wheat to Orissa against only 49,000 metric tonnes of rice though Orissa is essentially and fully a rice-eating State. Therefore, would you .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Be brief now.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: This is my question: Would you also consider giving more rice and less wheat to Orissa State, provide the same subsidy for rice, which you are providing for wheat and see that the people who are employed under this programme get the same wage rate as others and also meeting the requirements that the States place?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made out a good case for Orissa.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: In fact, I have replied to all these questions. The State Governments can ask for either rice or wheat. I have made it very clear that the State Governments can get the foodgrains of their choice. And as far as the rate of wages is concerned... (Interruptions) Well, if they do not want to listen . . .

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kesri.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPA-TRO: While answering, he sat down. There was disturbance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There was no disturbance.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPA-TRO: Otherwise you ask him why he did not complete the answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to say anything more?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: I was trying to say that every State Government had the choice regarding the foodgrains. The Orissa Government can ask for rice: we can give them. There is no difficulty about that.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPA-TRO: He was speaking about wages. He was speaking about subsidy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A number of Members from Orissa have asked supplementaries. This question was replied to in the last session also. He has given all the details.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPA-TRO: He was answering the questions when you stopped him abruptly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not stopped.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: You called the name of another hon. Member. So, I sat down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to reply, reply.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: I shall continue. I have only to add that the wages to be paid are the minimum fixed for that area. Beyond that, we have advised the State Governments not to pay, so that only the needy once come for this kind of work. The subsidy is a separate question. It has nothing to do with the Food-for-Work Programme, and that we can discuss later on.

श्री सीताराम केसरी : सभापति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने प्रश्न के उत्तर में जो वक्तव्य दिया है मैं उस पूरे स्टेटमेंट को चैलेंज करता हूँ। बिहार के संबंध में उन्होंने कहा है कि 2 लाख 50 हजार भ्रातृमी उस से बेनिफिटेड हुए हैं। मैं आप के माध्यम से उनसे जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन्हें यह पता है या नहीं है कि जामतारा और करमन्ता रोड बनाने के लिये, जो कि 18 किलोमीटर का रोड है और उस काम को वहाँ पी० के० राय करा रहे हैं, वहाँ पर भारा के एक ओवरसियर ने 200 मजदूरों से 120 क्यूबिक फिट जमीन कटवाई जब कि केवल 100 क्यूबिक फिट जमीन कटनी चाहिए थी, और उसके लिये उन लोगों को 3 किलो गेहूँ के हिसाब से देना चाहिए था उस की जगह उनको केवल दो किलो गेहूँ दिया गया और एक रुपया नकद मजदूरी की जगह केवल 60 पैसे दिये गये। यह आप की ही रिपोर्ट है और यह सच्ची रिपोर्ट है। इतना ही नहीं, 20 मजदूरों ने जब बी० डी० ओ० को कमप्लेंट की कि अपने काम का जितना भत्ता हम को मिलना चाहिए था वह नहीं मिलता है और न उस के हिसाब से

सही। पेमेंट होता है तो बी० डी० ओ० ने उस रिपोर्ट को एस० डी० ओ० को भेज दिया और उन्होंने उस रिपोर्ट को सकिल इंस्पेक्टर श्री भवानी पांडेय को भेज दिया और उन्होंने उसे इंस्पेक्टर को भेज दिया और उसने 15 दिन लगा दिये और इस बीच में उन मजदूरों का कार्य बंद कर दिया गया।

मैं आपसे यह कहता हूँ यह गलत फिगर्स हैं। मेरे पास 'इंडियन एक्सप्रेस' के रिपोर्टर अरुण सिन्हा द्वारा 8-4-79 को लिखित डिटेल है जिसको रखने के लिए मैं तैयार हूँ। इस तरह से मैं आपसे यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसकी सूचना आपके पास है या नहीं। यह जो फिगर्स बिहार सरकार ने दी है, इस आधार पर गलत दी है। इसलिए मैं आपसे कैटेगोरिकली जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह फिगर्स गलत हैं, आप इनको एग्जामिन करके बतायें। जो धंधली या गड़बड़ी है, उन अफसरों के खिलाफ आप कार्यवाही करेंगे या नहीं? आप इसकी छानबीन करेंगे या नहीं?

श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह : मैं तो वहीं आंकड़े दे सकता हूँ जो राज्य सरकार से प्राप्त होते हैं। जो शिकायत माननीय सदस्य ने की है . . .

श्री सीताराम केसरी : यह आपका ही अखबार है।

श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह : आप जरा सुन तो लें। यह जो लैस फूड फार मोर वर्क शीर्षक से छपा है वह मैंने काट कर बिहार सरकार के पास भेजा है। मैं इसकी जांच करा रहा हूँ।

श्रीमती जमुना देवी : मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि यह जो स्टेटमेंट में फूड फार वर्क

कार्यक्रम की प्रदेशों की सूची दी है, क्या मध्य प्रदेश में यह प्रोग्राम नहीं चल रहा है? क्या जिस अनाज का अग्लटमेंट आपने किया है वह नाजायज तौर से बाजार में बिक रहा है? दूसरा सवाल यह है कि जिन क्षेत्रों में आदिवासी ज्यादातर काम पर रहते हैं वहां पर चावल और गेहूं नहीं पहुंचता है क्या वे लोग गेहूं खाना पसंद नहीं करते और मोटा अनाज खाना पसंद करते हैं। क्या आप इन सारे प्रकरणों की जांच करायेंगे? वहां पर यह प्रोग्राम ठीक से नहीं चल रहा है। इस कारण से ही रिपोर्ट नहीं आई है। जो काम की सूची आपने दी है वह सारा ठेकेदारी पर काम होता है। इसलिए मजदूरों को अनाज प्राप्त नहीं होता है। यह सब जो कारण है क्या आप इनकी जांच करायेंगे?

श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह : श्रीमन् जो भी शिकायत मिलेगी मैं उसकी जांच कराऊंगा। उहां तक कंट्रोलर से काम कराने का प्रश्न है, यह बार बार राज्य सरकारों को लिखा जा चुका है कि यह प्रथा बिल्कुल समाप्त होनी चाहिए। अगर फिर भी कोई सरकार कंट्रोल सिस्टम से करेगी तो शायद हमको अनाज देना रोक देना पड़े? उस राज्य को गल्ला देना बंद कर देंगे क्योंकि...

श्री मनु भाई पटेल : शिकायत तो हो गई है।

श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह : शिकायत का ब्योरा भेजा जाए तो मैं जरूर जांच कराऊंगा। मैंने आश्वासन दिया है यदि लिख कर भेजेंगे, स्पेसिफिक केस भेजेंगे तो मैं उसकी जांच कराऊंगा।

श्री रामानन्द धावः : काम के बदले अनाज कार्यक्रम सारे देश में चल रहा है। ऐसा लगता है कि जनता सरकार कांग्रेस के समय का इकट्ठा किया हुआ प्रचुर मात्रा में अनाज का दुरुपयोग कर रही है (Interruptions) जरा मुनिये, हंसिये मत। आपके ही लोगों ने एलीगेशन लगाया है जो आपके पीछे बैठे हैं। मैं नहीं कह रहा हूँ। अनाज जो दिया जाता है वह बी० डी० ओ० को दिया जाता है और बी० डी० ओ० ठेकेदार मनोनीत करता है और ठेकेदार की जो एजेंसी होती है उसमें जनता पार्टी के कार्यकर्ता हैं। जिस तरह से प्रोड्रिक्सा कार्यक्रम के लिए सरकारी खजाने का पैसा जनसंघ को बचने के लिए दिया जा रहा है उसी तरह से यह अनाज भी उन्हीं लोगों को जो जनता पार्टी से संबंधित है दिया जाता है कि वे खर्च करें और लोगों से काम लें। यह क्या करते हैं? यह मजदूरी करने वालों को अनाज कम देते हैं और काम अधिक लेते हैं। इस तरह की शिकायतें एक नहीं अनेक हैं। मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ क्या सरकार इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि सारे देश के लिए मंसू के दोनों मदन की या राज्य सभा के सदस्यों की एक कमेटी बनायेगी जो सारे देश में दौरा करके इस बात की जांच करे कि जितना मीट्रिक टन अनाज इस योजना के अन्तर्गत खर्च हुआ है, उसका दुरुपयोग हुआ है या नहीं? सचमुच जितना अनाज दिया गया है उतना मैंने डेज काम हुआ है कि नहीं और जिस को काम मिलना चाहिए उसको काम मिला है या नहीं? जो मजदूरी मिलनी चाहिए वह उचित मजदूरी मिली है कि नहीं? इन तीन मुद्दों पर क्या आप कमीशन बैठा कर इसकी जांच कराने के लिए तैयार हैं?

श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह : श्रीमन् कमीशन या कमेटी बैठाने के लिए तो सरकार तैयार नहीं है। क्योंकि इस योजना की काफी प्रशंसा हुई है और इस से अच्छा काम हुआ है। लेकिन यह पनी तरफ से माननीय सदस्यों निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि अपने अपने क्षेत्र के बारे में, यदि उनको कुछ शिकायतें हैं तो उन को भेजें। उस में हर प्रकार का सुधार करने का विचार करेंगे। लेकिन इस तरह से जनरल बात कहना ठीक नहीं है। इस योजना से बहुत अच्छा काम भी हुआ है इसके कारण देश की प्रतिष्ठा भी बढ़ी है। दो चार छुट-पुट घटनाएँ तो इस देश में हुआ करेंगी।

श्री रामानन्द धावः : श्रीमन् प्रखंड पदाधिकारियों ने अन्न ब्लॉक में बेचा है ठेकेदारों के माध्यम से। क्या मंत्री जी इसकी जांच करायेंगे?

(Interruptions)

श्री गुरु सिंह : श्रीमन्, इधर भी कई लोग पिछले स्टेट के बैठे हुए हैं उन को समय नहीं मिला। इसलिए जरूर हम को भी समय दिया जाए।

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naidu.

SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Is it a fact that due to mishandling and bad storage by the Food Corporation of India, spoiled stocks are distributed for food for work programme?

SHRI BHANU PR/ TAP SINGH: No, Sir.

SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Due to this reason now people are not coming forward to work in the food for work programme. In Andhra I have myself experienced it. I have seen the foodgrains supplied. The rice supplied is not fit for human

consumption. Wheat is very good. I have no complaint against it. But spoilt rice is being distributed.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Sir, it is not at all a fact. The other day the Ministers of Andhra Pradesh came to see me and they were asking for more foodgrains. If the workers were not coming forward to work, then they would not have asked for more foodgrains. The mere fact that they are asking for more and more is an indication that the foodgrains are not bad. In stray cases I do not deny that some foodgrains may be bad.

SHRI V. B. RAJU: I would like to know whether the Planning Commission is seized of the programme and whether the Commission has submitted its opinion, its views, on this so that the scheme may be stabilised and made permanent. Secondly, have the statistics any relevance? For example, Bihar has got 2 lakhs tonnes and has done 77.7 lakh man-days. Orissa also has got the same quantity, nearly 2 lakh tonnes, but it has done 175 lakh man-days. The workers benefited in Bihar for the same quantity, nearly 2 lakh tonnes, are 1.25 lakhs whereas in Orissa 5.85 lakh persons for the same quantity. So, do the statistics have any relevance? Has the Ministry gone through them? I do not want to apportion blame, because the Minister will immediately say, it is the State Governments which implement the programme and distribute the foodgrains. Since the Minister has made a statement before the House, I would dispute his figures. I would request the Minister to inquire into this point.

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHAPATRO: In Orissa the minimum wages are very low. That is the reason for this difference.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: The discrepancy is due to the fact that various State Governments dis-

1% RS-2,

[tribute the foodgrains at various rates. Some are also supplementing it with some cash component. So it cannot be the same in all the States. It is according to their own position. Some are giving out only 3 kgs. of wheat; others are giving 4 kgs., 5 kgs. So it is up to them and according to the minimum wages prevalent in the respective States.

*23. [Transferred to the 8th May, 1979.]

*24. [The questioners (Shrimati Sushila Shankar Adivarekar, Shrimati Leela Damodara Menon and Shrimati Pratibha Singh) were absent. For answer, vide cols. 38-39 infra.]

**25. [Transferred to the 8th. May, 1979.]

Controversy between the State Electricity Department of Jammu and Kashmir and Telegraph Department

*26. PROF. N. M. KAMBLE: SHRI
KRISHNA N. N.
JOSHI, SHRI SWAMI
DINESH
CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a controversy between the State Electricity Department of Jammu and Kashmir and the Telegraph Department had virtually paralysed the working of the Central Telegraph Office on the 31st March, 1979; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAGOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishna Nand Joshi.