

(a) whether Government are aware that the Delhi International Trunks is not functioning satisfactorily;

(b) whether it is a fact that even enquiries about international calls already booked are not properly attended to; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No, Sir. However to improve service further, installation of a new International Exchange with more positions, circuits and operations is being arranged.

(b) No, Sir. The enquiries are properly attended to as far as possible at present.

(c) Does not arise.

**Vacancy of the post of Chairman, Taraqi-e-Urdu Board**

136. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:

SHRI PIARE LALL KUREEL  
URF PIARE LALL TALIB:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Chairman of the Taraqi-e-Urdu Board has been lying vacant for the last few months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the absence of the chief executive, the work of the Board is suffering; and

(c) by when the vacancy is likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI RENUKA DEVI BARAKATKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Production of pulses**

137. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in production of pulses;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what is the State-wise production during the last three years; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to augment the production of pulses so as to remove the shortage and regulate the price of pulses?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (c) Production of pulses in the year 1977-78 was higher than that in the previous year though it was lower than the record level achieved in 1975-76. Figures of output of pulses for the last five years are given below:

Year	Production in million tonnes
1973-74	10.01
1974-75	10.02
1975-76	13.04
1976-77	11.36
1977-78	11.80

A statement indicating the state-wise production of pulses during the last three years is enclosed.

Intensive measures are being taken to augment the production of pulses in the country. These include enhanced use of phosphatic fertilisers, rhizobium culture and plant protection measures, introduction of short duration pulse crops through multiple cropping and inter-cropping. Steps have also been taken to streamline and strengthen the seed multiplication programme so as to cover larger areas. Subsidy is being pro-