

season is also expected to be of the same order as a result of which the prices will remain subdued for some time more. This unprecedented production of sugar has created problems not only in Maharashtra but in other States also.

(b) It has been decided in principle to create a buffer stock of 5

lakh tonnes, the modalities of which are being worked out. The sugar factories in Maharashtra have also been permitted to store sugar in non-duty paid outside godowns within the radius of 40 kms. of the factory and in case any factory desires to store the sugar beyond 40 kms. such a request is also considered on merits.

Statement

(Lakh tonnes)

	1978-79	1977-78
1. Stocks as on 1st October.	11.15	4.79
2. Production of sugar from 1st October to 7th February.	10.71	9.05
3. Despatches of sugar from factories from 1st October to 7th February.	8.35	5.01
4. Closing stocks of sugar as on 7th February.	13.51	8.83

**Mis-utilisation of subsidies of the sale of phosphatic fertilisers in Punjab**

134. SHRI SHIVDAYAL SINGH  
CHAURASIA:  
SHRI KHURSHED ALAM  
KHAN:

SHRI PIARE LALL KUREEL  
URF PIARELAL TALIB:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of misappropriation and misutilisation of subsidies on the sale of phosphatic fertilisers in Punjab was brought to light during 1977-78;

(b) whether it is also a fact that benefits of subsidy were shared among salesmen, co-operative officials etc; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent such malpractices in future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some cases of misutilisation of subsidy, given by the Punjab Government in 1977-78 on phosphatic fertilisers, were detected.

(b) and (c) While cases against persons found *prima facie* guilty including salesmen of Cooperative Societies have been registered the State Government has also set up a Committee to investigate into the matter. In the meantime, directions have been issued to the officials concerned to ensure personally that subsidy on fertiliser is utilised properly and given to the genuine farmers.

**Functioning of De'hi International Trunks**

135. SHRI KHURSHED ALAM  
KHAN:  
SHRI ROSHAN LAL:  
SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(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-