

Report of redesign group on qntalNU system

1433. SHRI K.P. SINGH DZO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1514 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th August, 1974 and state :

(a) whether the Redesign Group consisting of officers from telecommunication Research Centre (T.R.C.) P&T Directorate and M/s I.T.I., set up to study the functioning of crossbar system has since submitted the report; and

(b) if so, what are the main findings thereof.'

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKAR DAYAL SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise at this stage.

fifth International Film Festival

1434. SHRI L. MAHAPATRO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fifth International Film Festival is to start from 30th December, 1974, in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof.'

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) and (b) The Vth International Film Festival of India is proposed to be held from the 30th December, 1974 to 12th January, 1975, as an exclusive competitive festival in which 42 countries are expected to participate with about 148 feature and 170 short films in the three sections viz. competition, information and market.

Procurement and distribution of essential commodities

1435. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to bring the procurement and distribution of essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act; and

(b) if so, the broad outline thereof and the steps taken in this regard.'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) No Sir. Provision for procurement and distribution of essential commodities already exists in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and powers under the Act have also been delegated to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

However, certain essential commodities of mass consumption like foodgrains, sugar etc. are already being distributed through the public Distribution system. A scheme for distribution of controlled varieties of cloth has been in operation since November, 1972. Under the scheme, the controlled cloth is distributed through the cooperative agencies and mill's retail shops. The distribution of kerosene is being made by the Indian Oil Corporation throughout the country through the net work of retail depots. Various State Governments have made arrangements for the distribution of vanaspathi through the fair price shops and other licensed dealers. Soft coke is also being supplied at fixed prices to the consumers at various places. In some States these items are also being issued on ration cards.

Indo-Japan talks

821. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a two day Indo-Japan meeting was held in New Delhi from November 21, 1974; and

(b) if so, the subject matters discussed there at and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI D. P. DHAR) : (a) Yes, Sir, a two-day joint meeting of the India and Japan Committees for Studies on Economic Development in India and Japan was held in New Delhi on November 21 and 22, 1974.

(b) The subject matters discussed during the meetings were (i) Indo-Japan political relations in the light of the emerging scene, (ii) Indo-Japan economic relations in the new situation, and (iii) Indo-Japan scientific, cultural and educational cooperation.

The outcome of the discussions was :

i) Transferred from the 3rd December, 1974.