

GENERAL POST OFFICE AT SHILLONG

225. SHRI .OKANATHMISRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a fire broke out in the building of the General Post Office in Shillong on February 6, 1971;

(b) if so, the total loss suffered by the Post and Telegraph as a result thereof; and

(c) whether any investigation was conducted to ascertain the reasons of fire and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (P. T. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) There was no loss to the Department in the shape of cash and valuables but repairs to the building and counters damaged by fire will cost approximately Rs. 40,000.

(c) The cause of fire appeared to be defective chimney flue in the fire place. The result of police investigation is, however, awaited.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS Act

226. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1159 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th December 1970 and state :

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision about amending the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE. (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not considered necessary to undertake Legislation to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960, for the present.

TRANSMISSION EQUIPMENT OFFERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF WEST GERMANY

227. DR. B.N. ANTANI : SHRI K.L.N. PRASAD :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the West German Government had offered in 1969 television studio and transmission equipment as developmental assistance to the television studio in New Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that because of the delay in taking a decision by the Government in the matter the equipment is likely to be diverted to another country; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in taking a decision in the matter and the extent of expenditure likely to be incurred in the event of purchasing the equipment from the manufacturers and the period likely to be taken for its supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY) : (a) Government of India have made a request to the Government of Federal Republic of Germany for technical assistance for the expansion of Delhi Television Station. The German Government have not taken a final decision on this request as yet.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

228. [Transferred to the 1st April, 1971]

INFLUENCE OF FOREIGN MONEY ON CERTAIN NEWSPAPER

229. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting and Communication be pleased to state :