

RAISING THE PROCUREMENT PRICES OF FOODGRAINS

1422. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to raise the procurement prices of food-grains; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) During 1970-71 season, the procurement prices of paddy and rice in some of the States and the procurement prices of kharif coarse grains for Central Pool purchases in all the States have been raised.

(b) This has been done in consultation with the State Governments to encourage production and enable the Government to maximise procurement.

INTRODUCTION OF METERING SYSTEM

1423. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations to the effect that the introduction of metering system should be stopped till the commissioning of the Central Coalfield Exchange;

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to extend the facility of "on demand" calls till the installation of automatic Central Coalfield Exchange for the Raniganj, Asansol, Bahula, Andal, Jamuriat, Neamatpur, Barakar, Rupnarayanpur and Durgapur telephone exchanges; and

(d) if so, by what time this facility will be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) The Department has no case of commissioning of a Central Coal-field exchange but representations were received against introduction of measured rate in Raniganj exchange which is one of the Coalfield

exchanges when the same was introduced in that exchange with effect from 1-11-1969.

(b) Introduction of measured rate system in exchanges is an established policy of the P&T Department. It has the advantages that it reduces the wear and tear of the equipment and improves its efficiency. Subscribers with lower calling rate pay less to the Department. The system on the whole is considered more equitable and beneficial to the Department as well as subscribers as they would get a better quality of service. This position was explained to the parties who had represented against its introduction.

(c) No, Sir. The facility of 'on demand' calls is not in operation anywhere in the country and there is no proposal to try the same in the Coalfield exchanges.

(d) Does not arise.

LICENCE FOR MANUFACTURE OF WEST GERMAN TRACTORS

1424. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON :

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN:
SHRI SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have issued a license to a firm for manufacture of West German Hanomag tractors;

(b) whether the partners of this firm are the same as those of the company to whom licence for the manufacture of GDR RS-Og tractors have been granted;

(c) whether the Government of Punjab have given a loan of 50 lakhs to the company for the manufacture of Hanuomag Tractors; and

(d) whether this tie-up has in any way influenced the campaign against GDR tractors in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASHAHEB SHYNDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No licence for the manufacture of G. D. R. RS-Og tractors has been granted. The application in this regard