

PRICES AND PROCUREMENT OF FOOD
GRAINS

1252. SHRI KUMBHA RAM ARYA:

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to review the policy relating to the prices and procurement of foodgrains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) and (b) Government review the prices and procurement policies of foodgrains before each harvesting season. A review will be made towards the end of September 1970 before the new kharif season begins.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR SUGAR PLANTS

1253. SHRI KUMBHA RAM ARYA:

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to appoint a technical committee for drawing up revised standard specifications for sugar plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Technical Committee comprising of 17 members including the representatives of the Sugar Industry and the Sugar Mill Machinery Manufacturers was appointed in July, 1970 for reviewing the standard specifications for sugar plants drawn up earlier in 1964, in the light of the developments that have since taken place in technique and design features of some equipments. The Committee has been asked to submit its report within a period of six months.

FUNCTIONING OF TRUNK TELEPHONE
SYSTEM IN DELHI

1254. 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 there had been large complaints from the members of Parliament and by the general public regarding working of the present Trunk telephone system in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that booking a call from Delhi to other States takes a whole day and even then there is a virtual state of uncertainty as to whether the call would materialise at all;

(c) whether Government are aware, that the newly introduced system of Trunk Calls in Hyderabad has been working satisfactorily;

(d) if so, whether in view of its successful operation, Government are considering to introduce such scheme in Delhi also;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) what steps are being taken to make the Trunk Calls system more efficient and to the satisfaction of the people in Delhi and other cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No. The answer on trunks booking is mostly within the prescribed standard of 10 seconds. Regarding trunk calls to mature, it may be mentioned that generally there is hardly any delay for transmission on direct routes except when there is breakdown in the coaxial cable system. However for transit calls and the terminal calls on side routes much depends upon the functioning of the circuits and quantum of traffic. Most of the open wire routes are prone to the wire thefts.

(c) According to the information available the only difference between the working of Delhi trunk exchange and Hyderabad trunk exchange is that at Hyderabad they are resorting to non-revertive system for dealing with enquiries on 181 while in Delhi the subscribers are rung back to give them the desired information.

(d) Non-revertive method is not considered suitable for Delhi where more than 90% of the queries are answered within 3 minutes through the existing method of working.

(e) Hyderabad system being a smaller one can successfully follow the non-revertive method whereas in Delhi this system will involve provision of additional positions and additional staff. In addition to this there is a large number of M.Ps and VIPs at Delhi who will find it inconvenient to hold the line till the information is collected and passed on to them.

(f) The present procedure adopted for handling trunk call enquiries has enabled the authorities to dispose of 90% enquiries within 3 minutes. Special study is undertaken to adopt remedial measures in the case of routes where the efficiency is low. Supervision has been tightened to improve the working with the result that effective percentage of calls has gone up by about 12%.

SMUGGLING AND UNAUTHORISED EXHIBITION OF INDIAN FILMS ABROAD

1255. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that smuggling and unauthorised exhibition of Indian films abroad is on the increase;

(b) if so, the annual loss of foreign exchange on this account;

(c) the names of foreign countries where smuggled Indian films are exhibited;

(d) whether Government have studied the factors responsible for the smuggling of Indian films; and

(e) if so, the details thereof; and the measures proposed to be taken by Government to curb the smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

CUT IN THE PRICES OF FERTILIZERS

1256. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Agriculture Ministers at their meeting held in July, 1970 have urged upon the Central Government for cut in prices of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions given by the Ministers in this respect; and

(c) what is the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) some of the State Ministers of Agriculture mentioned about the high prices of fertilizers in the Conference on July 4, 1970.

(b) It was suggested by one of the Ministers that the promotion of fertilizers would be facilitated if the prices of fertilizers were kept to the minimum possible *inter-alia* by abolishing the excise duty on fertilizers.

(c) The use of fertilizers is considered profitable enough to cover the present cost of fertilizers. It is hoped that the cost of production and hence the prices would come down with the establishment of larger fertilizer units.

UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

1257. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India in consultation with the State Governments and private enterprise are contemplating to formulate a phased programme for solving unemployment problem under the Fourth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, year-wise under the Fourth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA): (a) and (b) Creation of more and more employment opportunities and thereby solving unemployment problem is one of the main objectives of the 4th Plan. The Plan has been formulated in consultation with all interests concerned. The details of the programmes will be found in Chapter 3 of the 4th Plan document.

DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN INDIA

1258. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Northern India was badly affected by drought conditions this year?

(b) if so, the names of States which were so affected;

(c) to what extent the crops were damaged by drought conditions in these States; and

(d) the details of the relief measures provided to these States by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The South West Monsoon which is important for the sowing and growth of kharif crops started early or in time this year. Total rainfall during the current monsoon, upto 12-8-1970, was normal, except in the Bihar plateau in Northern India. However, there have been spells of deficient rainfall particularly in July in some regions of Punjab, Haryana, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Some areas in western Rajasthan also were affected by an intervening dry spell and sand storms. In Jammu & Kashmir, snow and rainfall are