

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DR. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA) : (a) to (c) The Elayaperumal Committee had been set up to suggest Amendments to the Act. Final decision will be taken shortly.

242. [Transferred to the 25th February, 1969.]

TAPPING OF TELEPHONES

243. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been alleged by some Members of Parliament that their telephones were being frequently tapped and their conversations recorded by the Intelligence services;

(b) if so, whether any investigation has been made by Government into this allegation;

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the findings thereof; and

(d) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) Yes. Some allegations of a general nature to that effect were made on the floor of the Rajya Sabha in March, 1968 but no specific details of any particular case were furnished.

(b) The allegations were refuted and the position was explained by the Minister of State for Communications, while replying to the supplementaries of starred Question No. 510 on 8-3-1968 and during half an hour discussion in the Rajya Sabha on 25-3-1968. As no specific details had been furnished, the question of any investigation did not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

L6RS/69—3

WITHHOLDING OF PRESS TELEGRAMS FROM CUTTACK

244. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of press telegrams from accredited correspondents from Cuttack and Bhubaneswar which were withheld and delayed during the communal tension in Cuttack town in November, 1968;

(b) under what law and on what grounds such action was taken;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in the matter as demanded by some Members of Parliament and the Working Journalists Association of Orissa; and

(d) if so, what is the result of this enquiry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) In all, 10 Telegrams were withheld and 6 were seriously delayed with the State Authorities during the Communal tension on 25th, 26th and 27th November, 1968.

(b) Under the provisions of I.T.R. 17, the said press telegrams were referred to the State Govt. for advice whether or not those messages be treated as objectionable.

(c) The enquiry is still in progress.

(d) Necessary action as called for will be taken after the enquiry is completed.

PAYMENT OF GRAIN ALLOWANCE TO MICA MINE WORKERS

245. SHRI M. V. BHADRAM :
SHRI YELLA REDDY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 547 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th November, 1965 and state :

(a) whether Writ Petitions in respect of payment of grain allowances to Mica Mine Workers has since been disposed of by the High Court;