

In RMS Mail Offices, there are no standards for the creation of such posts but such posts have been created on the merits of each case within the discretion of the Head of the Circle. The question of formulating standards is under examination.

ALLOWANCES TO EMPLOYEES WHO PERFORMED DUTIES IN CONNECTION WITH STRIKE

282. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by Government in the shape of payment as overtime allowance and other *ex gratia* allowances to the officers under the Central Government for their performance of duty in connection with the Central Government Employees' strike on the 19th September, 1968; and

(b) the number of such officials in various cadres who received such payments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) and (b) Requisite information in respect of the employees of the Department of Communications is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS' FORUM

283. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY :

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS :

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

(a) whether Government have given any financial assistance to the Farmers' Forum;

(b) whether it is a fact that this Forum is a part of the Bharat Krishak Samaj;

(c) whether any officials of this Forum have visited any foreign countries recently; and

(d) if so, the number of such visits made by the officials of this Forum ?

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

(b) The Bharat Krishak Samaj is the Hindi name adopted for Farmer's Forum, India.

(c) Not recently.

(d) The question does not arise.

CROP INSURANCE SCHEME

284. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised the consideration of the Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the nature thereof; and

(c) by when it is proposed to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The details of Crop Insurance Scheme are still under consideration of the Government.

(c) The scheme will be implemented as and when the State Government decide to do so after the Bill on Crop Insurance is passed by Parliament.

SEPARATE FOOD ZONE FOR WHEAT EATING AREAS

285. SHRI R. K. PODDAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to create a separate food zone comprising the wheat eating areas of the Northern region of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals, and

(c) the stage at which the matter rests at present ?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

KHARIF CROP ESTIMATES

286. SHRI R. K. PODDAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any estimate has been made of the kharif crops this year as compared to the figures for the last year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) Firm estimates of Kharif Crops during 1968-69 would become available only after the close of the current agricultural year, i.e. some time in July-August, 1969.

FISHERIES INSTITUTE AT COCHIN ETC.

287. SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the three Fisheries Institutes at Cochin, Mampram and Calcutta taken over recently by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research are short of funds and have no money even to pay the salaries of their employees from February, 1969; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure that the I.C.A.R. allocates sufficient funds for the expenditure of the three Fisheries Institutes and also pay the employees duly ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

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

आस्ट्रेलिया से खाद्यान्न का आयात

289. श्री राम सहाय :

चौधरी ए० मोहम्मद :

क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) आस्ट्रेलिया हाल ही में भारत को 1969 के वर्ष में कितना खाद्यान्न देने के लिए सहमत हो गया है; और

(ख) यह खाद्यान्न कब तक भारत पहुंच सकेगा और इसके मूल्य की अदायगी की शर्तें क्या हैं ?

†[IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS FROM AUSTRALIA]

289. SHRI RAM SAHAI :

CHAUDHARY A. MOHAMMAD :

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

(a) the quantity of foodgrains which Australia has recently agreed to give to India during the year 1969; and

(b) by when the foodgrains will reach India and what are the terms for the payment of its cost?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अण्णासाहेब शिन्दे) : (क) हमने वर्ष 1969 के दौरान अबतक आस्ट्रेलिया की सरकार से खाद्यान्न देने के लिए नहीं कहा है।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) We have not so far approached the Australian Government for any foodgrains during the year 1969.

(b) Does not arise.]

†[] English translation.