

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) No funds were given by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Board to the Overseas Communications Service during the years 1965-66, 1966-67 and 1967-68.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

MONETARY COMPENSATION PAID TO OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE EMPLOYEES

554. SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the orders of the Home Ministry regarding monetary compensation for duties performed during National holidays and other holidays have not been implemented in respect of workers in the Overseas Communications Service; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to the orders of the Ministry of Finance on the subject. The ministerial staff of the Overseas Communications Service when called upon to perform duty on National holidays and other closed holidays is invariably paid monetary compensation. The operational staff who is entitled to Telegraph holidays only is allowed compensatory offs for duty performed on Telegraph holidays in accordance with the practice in force in the Overseas Communications Service from the very beginning. Monetary compensation is paid to them only when it is not administratively convenient to give them compensatory offs. However, the question of grant of monetary compensation to the operational staff on Telegraph holidays is under consideration.

FOOD PRODUCTION

555. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated area of the Rabi Harvest, crop-wise and state-wise, during the year 1967-68; and

(b) what is the estimated production of these crops, state-wise and crop-wise, during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) and (b) Firm Estimates or area and production of Rabi Crops for the current year (1967-68) for different States are expected to become available only after the close of the agricultural year, 1967-68.

STRENGTH OF INCOME-TAX APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

556. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present strength of Income-tax Appellate Tribunal is considered to be adequate; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to establish separate Tribunals in other areas to expedite the disposal of pending cases?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI MOHAMMAD YUNUS SALEEM): (a) and (b) At present the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal consists of fifteen Benches, situated at various places in the country. The strength of the Tribunal is reviewed from time to time from all aspects. The question of setting up of additional Benches to expedite disposal of pending cases is under consideration.