

(b) The amount of foreign exchange involved in the import of 263 Marine Engines is Rs. 60 lakhs. As regards Helicopters no expenditure on foreign exchange is involved at present since there is no immediate proposal for their import.

IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS

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

(a) whether Government have formulated their import programme of foodgrains for the coming year; and

(b) if so, the details of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) and (b) During the year 1968, the Government propose to import about 7.5 million tonnes of foodgrains. The grainwise break-up is likely to be 64 lakh tonnes of wheat, 7 lakh tonnes of milo and 4 lakh tonnes of rice. Except for the Agreement signed with the U.S. Government for the supply of 3.5 million tonnes of foodgrains during the first half of 1968, the sources from which the balance quantity of foodgrains will be imported have not yet been settled.

OVERTIME ALLOWANCE IN OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

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

(a) whether the workers in the Overseas Communications Service are paid overtime allowance at much lower rates as compared to the employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department even though the Overseas Communications Service Employees are dealing with costlier equipment and performing shift duties;

(b) if so, the reasons for the disparity in overtime allowance rates paid to the employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Overseas Communications Service; and

(c) the steps taken to remove the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) The rates of overtime allowance for the Overseas Communications Service Staff, other than operational staff, are the same as admissible to other Central Government employees including the Posts and Telegraphs Staff. Since nationalisation, *i.e.* from the 1st January, 1947, the rates of overtime allowances of the operational staff of the Overseas Communications Service were based on 'basic' pay and these rates were until recently higher than those admissible to Posts and Telegraphs Staff, in whose case the overtime allowance is based on 'emoluments'. Due to recent increases in the rates of dearness allowance, the rates of overtime allowance in the case of Posts and Telegraphs Staff are now higher than those admissible to the Overseas Communications Service Staff.

(c) The question of granting overtime allowance to Overseas Communications Service Staff on the basis of 'emoluments' and of bringing them on par with the Posts and Telegraphs Staff is under consideration.

TECHNICAL OFFICERS AT OVERSEAS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE, DELHI

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

(a) whether the Staff Inspection Unit of the Finance Ministry has fixed

the strength of four technical officers per shift to deal with equipment costing over Rs. two crores using 11 KV supply at the Overseas Communications Service Transmitting Station, Delhi.

(b) whether the Overseas Communications Service have ignored this and reduced the existing strength from three technical officers to two which resulted in serious delay to Overseas Radio Telephone Calls during February—October 1967; and

(c) if so, the reasons for reducing strength of these technical officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) No. The Staff Inspection Unit assessed the staff requirements of each Station category-wise, without indicating any break-up shift-wise.

(b) Does not arise in view of above. There has been no delay in Overseas Radio Telephone Calls due to lack of staff. (a)

(c) Does not arise.

REGISTRATION OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

169. SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed persons who were registered with the Employment Exchanges up to 31st December, 1967; and

(b) the number of educated unemployed persons enrolled up to 31st December, 1967 category wise with qualifications above Matriculation or equivalent thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAI-SUKHLAL HATHI): (a) and (b): The in-

formation is given in the table below:

Category	No. of applicants on the live register at the end of December, 1967*
Below Matric (including illiterates)	16,53,064
Matriculates	7,14,148
Higher Secondary (including Intermediates)	2,51,744
Graduates	1,06,101
Post-graduates	1,5,378
Total	27,40,435

*Includes employed persons who registered their names for better employment.

MAN-DAYS LOST IN INDUSTRIAL UNDERTAKINGS

170. SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of man-days lost because of strikes, lock-outs in industrial undertakings (public and private) during the last year and the current year up-to-date;

(b) the total loss in industrial production and the loss in revenue as a result of strikes and lock-outs; and

(c) whether the Labour Ministry has formulated any scheme to stop strikes and lock-outs and thus prevent fall of industrial production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAI-SUKHLAL HATHI): (a) The figures of man-days lost owing to work stoppages (strikes and lock-outs) on the