

27. 61 लाख रुपये की पुनः अदायगी की जा चुकी है ।

†[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) No profits were earned by the Hindustan Teleprinters Limited, Madras, during the year 1966-67. So far as the year 1967-68 is concerned, the financial position would only be known at the end of the financial year when the accounts are finalized ;

(c) The loans advanced by the Government of India are being repaid by the Company in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed for these loans. Out of total loans of Rs. 110 lakhs sanctioned, Rs. 27.61 lakhs have been repaid by the 30th November, 1967.]

DEMAND OF P. & T. PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

*473. SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 52 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th November, 1967 and state the reasons for which the demand of the All India P. & T. Pensioners' Association referred to therein was not accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): The request was not accepted as it was felt that the existing arrangements for the drawal of pensions by P. & T. Pensioners were quite adequate and convenient. The grant of such a request would also add to the losses of the Postal Branch without giving any substantial facility.

TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS IN GREATER BOMBAY

*474. SHRI PALAT KUNHI KOYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

† [] English translation.

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone subscribers and users in Greater Bombay, particularly those which are served by the two new crossbar exchanges (25 and 31), are not satisfied as they do not get connections ;

(b) if so, the reason therefor ; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that these equipments were supplied by a Belgium firm to which the tender was auctioned against the advice of the Posts and Telegraphs Department ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) The telephone service in Greater Bombay as a whole is satisfactory. The new crossbar exchanges '25' and '31' were commissioned on 11-11-67. Exchange '31' has been giving satisfactory service but in respect of exchange '25' the number of calls is much heavier than was expected and this is causing some congestion. Equipment is being currently added to overcome this difficulty and the service has improved to a considerable extent.

(c) No, Madam. The equipment was supplied, after calling for world tenders, by a Belgium firm, Messrs Bell Telephone Manufacturing Co., as a part of an agreement reached by the Government of India with that firm.

SMUGGLING OF PULSES TO CHINA

*475. SHRI JAIRAMDAS DAULATRAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pulses from Madhya Pradesh are being smuggled to China from the Eastern borders of India via some places in Assam ; and

(b) since when the smuggling has been taking place, and what steps have been taken by Government to prevent this smuggling of food from India to China ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNA-SAHEB SHINDE): (a) The information available with the Government of