

Indian Agricultural Service is engaging the attention of the Central Government; and

(b) if so, by when such a service will be created?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The various State Governments having agreed in principle to the creation of an All India Service in the field of agriculture, a resolution under Article 312(1) of the Constitution was passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting on the 30th March 1965, authorising the Government of India to constitute an All India Service in the field of agriculture. A bill to amend the All India Services Act, 1951, was introduced in the Lok Sabha in November '65 to bring within the purview of the Act the Indian Agricultural Service. This bill could not be passed during the life time of the Third Lok Sabha. Steps are now being taken afresh to initiate legislation to amend the All India Services Act. In the meantime a Memorandum indicating the broad features of the Indian Agricultural Service alongwith Draft Cadre Rules, Recruitment Rules and Initial Recruitment Regulations have been circulated to all the State Governments for their comments. Replies are awaited from a number of State Governments. They are being requested to expedite their comments.

In view of the fact that a broad unanimity of approach is required between all the State Governments and the Central Government regarding the fundamental service conditions, it is not possible to indicate now a definite date by which the new Service will be constituted.

TRUNK DIALLING

•255. SHRI RAM CHANDER: SHRI K. SUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme under Government's consideration to connect more of the important cities in the country with direct trunk dialling telephonic system this year; if so, which cities are to be so connected;

(b) what is the cost of the scheme; and

(c) by when the scheme will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) The trunk automatic exchanges at Madras, Bombay and Delhi are likely to be completed this year and will interlink progressively these and certain other cities to which these exchanges will have large blocks of reliable circuits. Delhi—Jammu, Delhi—Srinagar and Jammu—Srinagar will also be interconnected this year.

(b) Microwave and coaxial routes require to be established for providing direct dialling systems though these provide circuits for general expansion also. In addition, trunk automatic exchange are required.

The expenditure in 1967-68 on coaxial, microwave and trunk automatic exchange programmes is approximately Rs. 9 crores.

(c) Subject to availability of funds, most of the important cities, numbering 50 in India will get interconnection by 1971.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

•256. SHRI JAGAT NARAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken by Government to introduce Unemployment Insurance Scheme for persons who are employed but may lose employment; and