

THEFT OF TELEPHONE WIRES

*631. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of cutting and theft of telephone wires in the country have considerably increased as a result of which telephone services are often dislocated; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following action has been taken :

(i) The Chief Ministers of all States have been addressed to direct the I. Gs. Police to take steps to prevent copper wire thefts.

(ii) The Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950, is proposed to be amended to provide for severe punishment to offenders.

(iii) Replacement of copper wire by copper-weld wire is also proposed depending on the availability of foreign exchange required for the latter.

ABOLITION OF THE R. M. S. REORGANISATION SCHEME

*632. SHRI NIRANJAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to page 3 of the annual reports of the Ministry of Communications for 1967-68 and state the administrative difficulties which led to the abolition of R. M. S. Reorganisation scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : The following administrative difficulties led to the abolition of the R. M. S. Regionalisation scheme :—

- (1) Owing to financial stringency and introduction of the scheme on no-cost basis, it could only be implemented in certain parts of the country and the Eastern Region comprising the P & T Circles of Assam, West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar was excluded from the scheme.

(2) Difficulties experienced in shifting the headquarters of the Regional Director, RMS, Northern Region, from Lucknow to Delhi.

(3) The extensiveness of the charge of Regional Directors, RMS and their inability to exercise effective supervision over distant RMS offices and sections.

(4) Lack of experienced personnel.

(5) Lack of co-ordination between the Heads of P&T Circles and the Regional Directors, RMS.

(6) Absence of a senior officer at Headquarters to coordinate the activities of the RMS divisions.

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

*633. SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH :
SHRI B. T. KEMPARAJ : SHRI
G. R. PATIL :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India has not been procuring foodgrains direct from the cultivators and is working as a middleman in the trade by adding administrative charges before releasing the foodgrains ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Corporation has not constructed any storage-godowns and is storing the foodgrains in the godowns of the Central Government, State Governments or Central Warehousing Corporation, and

(c) what was the annual expense ratio of administrative charges in the case of the Corporation during 1967 and 1968 as compared to the charges incurred by the Food Ministry before the establishment of this corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) The effort of the Food Corporation of India is to purchase food-grains directly from the producer as far as possible. However, the extent to which it is possible will depend on the system of procurement followed in each State. Even if the Food Corporation of India were to purchase foodgrains directly from the producer and sell the same directly to

the consumer, the Food Corporation of India would be acting as a middleman and will still have to incur administrative expenses. The policy of the Food Corporation of India is to reduce the number of intermediaries.

(b) The Central Godowns in most of the States have been taken over by the Corporation against payment. It has also undertaken new construction. It is also utilising the storage capacity constructed by the Central Warehousing Corporation after furnishing Occupancy Guarantee to it.

(c) The annual expense ratio of administrative charges to turn over of the Corporation for the year 1966-67 was 0.66% as against 0.55% of the Department of Food for the year 1964-65, i.e., the year immediately before the *de facto* functioning of the Corporation. The functions and fields of activity of Food Department in 1964-65 and F. C. I. in 1966-67 are not exactly comparable. The accounts to the Corporation for 1967-68 are under compilation.

LOSS SUFFERED BY SUPER BAZAR

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Super Bazar in Delhi has been running on loss from its inception,

(b) whether in view of the heavy losses suffered every year, Government propose to close down this Bazar; and

(c) the steps being taken to minimise the losses by the Super Bazar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) The Super Bazar in Delhi incurred a loss in the first year of its working, the accounts for the second year have not yet been finalised.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Steps are being taken to economise in establishment and operational expenses, streamline administrative procedures, and improve business turn-over.

LOCKOUT IN GENERAL ELECTRIC CO. OF INDIA LTD., CALCUTTA

*635. SHRIMATI SARLA BHADARIA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that General Electric Company of India Ltd., Calcutta has declared a lockout in its workshop; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAI-SUKHLAL HATHI) : (a) M/s. General Electric Co., Taratola Road, Calcutta declared a lock out on 8-7-68. The workshop re-opened on 16-7-68 as a result of a bipartite settlement.

(b) According to the notice of the lockout, the reason was the disturbance created by workers within the factory premises.

SUGAR CONFERENCE

♦636. DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Executive Committee of the Sixty Nation Sugar Conference broke up in failure in the month of May, 1968 and was called again in July 1968 at Geneva; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government are aware of the main causes for its failure in the month of May, 1968 and if so, what are those causes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) At the close of the Conference on the 1st June 1968, it was decided that the next meeting of the Executive Committee should be set provisionally on the 1st of July, 1968. The Executive Committee of the U. N. Sugar Conference however did not meet again in July 1968, but discussions were held in July this year by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) with important sugar exporting countries to resolve the question of export quotas, which could not be settled earlier!