

in kind or in cash should be given for work done in excess of eight hours a day. Government is of the view that it would be impracticable to prescribe fixed working hours for crew of fishing vessels. The question of prescribing suitable regulations in view of their irregular working hours is under consideration. The main grievance, raised by the staff so far has been in regard to their emoluments. It has been decided to review their scales of pay and allowances. The peculiar conditions of working of the crew of fishing vessels are among the factors which are being taken into consideration in reviewing their scales of pay and allowances.

(c) and (d). The services of some of the staff have been terminated in accordance with the provisions of Rule 5 of the Central Civil Services (Temporary Services) Rules, 1965. Some staff have been suspended for disobedience or orders. No one has been suspended or dismissed for making any representation.

#### Sale of Inland Letters at Post Offices in Madras

7041. SHRI SEZHIYAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Inland letters are not available for sale at the Post Offices in Madras City and other places in the Madras State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) There have been occasional shortages of inland letter cards in some of the post offices in Madras City as well as in Madras State during the last quarter.

(b) Inadequate supply from the Controller of Stamps.

(c) Immediate arrangements were made to replenish the supplies from the neighbouring post offices also from the Controller of stamps, Nasik Road. Steps have also been taken to print blank inland letter cards at Madras and sell them at post offices after affixing stamps.

#### Strike Notice by D.M.S. Employees

7042. SHRI M. L. SONDHI :  
SHRI RAM GOPAL  
SHALWALE :

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

(a) whether Government have received notice of strike from the Delhi Milk Scheme employees from the 8th April, 1968;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to avert this strike to save the people of Delhi from great hardships in the absence of milk supply; and

(c) whether the demands of the employees are being considered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conciliation Officer has fixed the conciliation proceedings in terms of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. It will not be legal for the employees to go on strike during the pendency of the conciliation proceedings.

(c) The demands would be considered during the course of Conciliation proceedings.

#### Kosi River Zone in Bihar

7043. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided to divide the Kosi river command area into four zones with a view to ensure its all round development ;

(b) whether it has also been decided to spend a sum of Rs. 125 crores for the development of the area in the Kosi Zone and if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether the scheme also covers the Western Kosi Canal command area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). The State Governments have estimated that the total amount needed to meet all the demands for an integrated agricultural development of the Command of the Eastern Kosi Canal will be of the order of about Rs. 125 crores.