

of Parliament, a complaint, enclosing, *inter-alia*, copies of others from two persons in Kangra District, and of a communication from Shri L. V. Valvi, Member of Parliament, both addressed to the District Officer. The papers were forwarded to the Himachal Pradesh Administration for necessary action.

Agricultural Production

7577. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made recently by the Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research that India's gross national agricultural production can be increased significantly within a short time by applying the latest production techniques ; and

(b) if so, the steps which Government propose to take to implement his suggestions ?

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

(b) The Government of India are already working towards a rapid transformation of Indian Agriculture on scientific lines. To achieve this end, a high yielding varieties programme has been initiated with the object of covering a large part of the irrigated area in the country with seeds of improved varieties of rice, wheat, millets and other crops, and making available simultaneously fertilisers and other inputs. Also steps have been taken to intensify research work on the development of new high yielding varieties in different crop plants and for increasing the efficiency of use of fertilisers and other inputs.

Rice and Wheat Boards

7578. SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRI D. N. PATODIA :

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Director of the Indian Agricultural Research

Institute suggesting to set up a Rice Board and a Wheat Board to draw up indicative plans for the production of these crops every year and to assure the farmers price levels regarded as desirable by Government and the Agricultural Prices Commission ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the details thereof ?

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

(b) This was the opinion expressed by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, in his capacity as a scientist while addressing a Symposium on "Accelerating Genetic Improvement of India's Plant Resources". After getting the full proceedings of the Symposium the matter will be further examined by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Government of India.

Payment of Dearness Allowance to Working Journalists

7579. SHRI D. C. SHARMA :
SHRI BENI SHANKER
SHARMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase of 40 points in the All-India average Consumer Price Index which is also applicable to Working Journalists ;

(b) whether the first revision in dearness allowance due in January, 1968 has taken place ;

(c) if so, whether the payment Rs. 20/- on account of this increase has been made to Working Journalists of Newspapers establishments in Delhi ; and

(d) if not, the steps Government propose to take to implement this recommendation ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI) : (a) The average of the index for the year 1967 comes to 209 points while the average for 1965 was 166.

(b) to (d). This is a matter between the employees and the individual establishments concerned and any complaints should be taken up with the State Governments under the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1955. The Labour Departments of all State Governments and Union Territories have been requested to take necessary action under the Act to secure implementation of all the recommendations of the Journalists' Wage Board as accepted by Government.

Rice Mills from Japan

7580. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India have acquired from Japan 24 Rice Mills and machinery at a cost of Rs. 39 lakhs ;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the possibility of installing four of these Rice Mills in Madhya Pradesh where there is a shortage of such mills and rice has to be transported hundreds of miles away to be processed ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The Food Corporation of India have entered into a contract with a Japanese Firm for the purchase of five complete rice mills and basic components for 19 rice mills along with spare parts and some agricultural machinery related to rice milling at a cost of about Rs. 38.56 lakhs. The project will be financed under the 5th-Yen Credit.

(b) The possibility of establishing modern rice mills in Madhya Pradesh has been considered by Food Corporation and tentatively, it has been decided that 3 of these mills may be established in Madhya Pradesh subject to the concurrence of the State Government.

(c) Does not arise.

दिल्ली में टेलीफोन

7581. श्री शशि भूषण बाजपेयी : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) समाज कार्यकर्ता श्रेणी के अन्तर्गत

दिल्ली में अब तक कितने टेलीफोन लगाये गये हैं;

(ख) उपर्युक्त श्रेणी के अन्तर्गत बनाई गई सूची में कुल कितने लोगों के नाम दर्ज हैं तथा उनमें से ऐसे व्यक्तियों की संख्या कितनी है जिन्हें अभी टेलीफोन नहीं दिये गए हैं;

(ग) उन्हें कब तक टेलीफोन दिये जाने की सम्भावना है; और

(घ) 'समाज कार्य' श्रेणी के अन्तर्गत टेलीफोन देने के लिये सरकार ने क्या कसौटी निर्धारित की है ?

संसद्-कार्य विभाग तथा संचार विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री इ० कु० गुजराल) : (क) 1967 के दौरान 281 टेलीफोन कनेक्शन दिये गए। इस से पहले के वर्षों से सम्बन्धित जानकारी फिलहाल उपलब्ध नहीं है।

(ख) 1 अप्रैल, 1968 को प्रतीक्षा-सूची में 1,514 व्यक्ति थे और इन्हें टेलीफोन दिये जाने अभी बाकी हैं।

(ग) चूंकि टेलीफोनों की व्यवस्था उपस्कर, लाइन सम्बन्धी सामान, केबल, उपकरण आदि के उपलब्ध होने जैसी बहुत सी बातों पर निर्भर करती है अतः निश्चित रूप से यह बताना संभव नहीं है कि इस श्रेणी के अन्तर्गत मौजूदा प्रतीक्षा-सूची के सभी प्रार्थियों को कब तक टेलीफोन कनेक्शन दे दिये जाएंगे। इस के अतिरिक्त 'विशेष' श्रेणी के लिये, जिस में अन्य व्यक्तियों के साथ सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता भी शामिल होते हैं, केवल 15 प्रतिशत के ही सीमित कोटे की व्यवस्था रहती है।

(घ) ऐसे सार्वजनिक तथा सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता जो अपने सामाजिक एवं सार्वजनिक क्रियाकलापों के सम्बन्ध में प्रसिद्ध सामाजिक या राजनीतिक सस्थाओं, संसद् सदस्यों या जिम्मेवार सरकारी अधिकारियों द्वारा प्रमाण दिलवा सकते हैं, उनके नाम 'सार्वजनिक कार्यकर्ता' की श्रेणी के अन्तर्गत दर्ज कर लिये जाते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त इस श्रेणी के अधीन टेलीफोन