

headquarters and these have telephonic links with their respective sub-divisional headquarters.

(e) there is no proposal at present to provide STD facility to these stations.

#### **Utilisation of Agricultural Machinery in Punjab**

5505. S. ATINDER PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount invested on agricultural machinery in Punjab;

(b) the amount of loans taken by farmers from private sector and nationalised and other banks for this propose;

(c) how does the amount spent on agricultural machinery compare with the amount invested in industries;

(d) the average income of farmers in Punjab as compared to the national average;

(e) whether there is optimum utilisation of agricultural machinery installed in Punjab; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by Government for proper utilisation of agricultural machinery in Punjab?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) According to the current estimates of the Government of Punjab, the investment on agricultural machinery is of the order of Rupees four thousand crores.

(b) No estimates are available for loans from private sector. However an amount of Rupees three hundred and seventy three crores from institutional sources is estimated

to have been disbursed during 1989-90.

(c) The amount spent on agricultural machinery is comparatively higher than investment made in the industry as per the estimates of the Government of Punjab.

(d) the average income of farmers in either Punjab or at all India level is not separately estimated by the Government.

(e) and (f). Extent of utilization of agricultural machinery varies from farmer to farmer. The State Government is providing advice to farmers on optimum utilisation of agricultural machinery.

[English]

#### **Bottlenecks hampering the Growth of Fertilizer Industry**

5506. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the bottlenecks which have hampered the growth of the fertilizer industry;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the slow progress of fertilizer units; and

(c) the steps taken to remove those bottlenecks and immediate implementation of the package recommended by the Eighth Plan working group on fertilizers?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) to (c) There has been a steady increase in the production capacity of both nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilizers. In the decade 1980-90 production capacity of Nitrogen increased from 4.575 million tonnes to 8.148 million tonnes and of phosphates from 1.332 million tonnes to 2.75 million tonnes. Although there are no major bottle-