

telegraph department are working within a slave system of service and getting very poor remuneration against their work;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these extra-departmental workers are deprived of the general facilities of the service conditions which other sections of ployees are enjoying; and

(c) the proposals of the Government to regularise their services and to improve their service conditions?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN)

(a) It is not correct to say that the Extra Departmental Agents are "working within a slave system of service." They are free to resign from service at any time at their option. The remuneration of the Extra Departmental Agents is fixed, taking into consideration their workload and responsibilities. The remuneration payable to them is also reviewed once in two years and the last upward revision was done as on 1-9-1979. The Government, therefore, does not accept that they are getting very poor remuneration.

(b) The Extra Departmental Agents are part-time employees and they are free to take up other avocations. Their service conditions cannot be the same as those of full time employees of the Government.

(c) There is no proposal to absorb all the Extra Departmental Agents as regular employees of the Department. Adequate opportunities have already been provided to Extra Departmental employees for their selection to Group 'D' posts and posts in postmen's cadre. The Government is also alive to the need to improve the service conditions of Extra Departmental Agents and they are subjected to constant review.

Handing over of the Travancore House to Kerala Government by the Centre

120. **SHRI K. A. RAJAN:** Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala State Government has requested the Centre to hand over Travancore House in New Delhi to the State Government; and

(b) if so, the decision of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Closure of Chilling Plants and Manufacture of Milk Products by Delhi Milk Scheme

121. **SHRI K. A. RAJAN:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 30 chilling centres in U.P., Haryana and Rajasthan for processing and pasturising milk for the D.M.S. have been closed down;

(b) whether the manufacture of D.M.S. products like cheese, butter, ghee and ice cream have been stopped;

(c) whether some of the plants and machinery of the Delhi Milk Scheme has been either auctioned or transferred to Amul Dairy at Anand in Gujarat;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government have any proposal to wind up the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Twenty Chilling Centres in U.P., Haryana and Rajasthan, were closed.

down between 1962 and 9-1-80, with progressive increase in the supplies of milk to D.M.S. undertaken by the respective State agencies.

(b) The manufacture of butter and ghee still continuing. The D.M.S did not at any stage undertaken the manufacture of cheese. The manufacture of ice-cream has been stopped.

(c) and (d). The equipment and machinery of D.M.S. that was either surplus or unserviceable was entrusted for disposal to the best advantage of D.M.S. through the Indian Dairy Corporation. The cheese plant was sold to the Amul Dairy which offered the highest price.

(e) No. Sir.

Prospects of Prawn Resources

122. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a team of Scientists which had investigated the Prawns resources in India's Coastal Waters have indicated that prawn fisheries therein have to face acute shortage in the near future; and

(b) whether the Government propose to lay a statement detailing the conclusion of the investigations on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). In March, 1979, the Government of India appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Director, Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, on conservation of shrimp and other resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone. The Committee is yet to submit its report to the Government.

Grameen Dialling System in Villages

123. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of

COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to introduce Grameen Dialling system in villages;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and

(c) to what extent this scheme has been introduced in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):

(a) and (b). A general scheme for providing wherever feasible inter-dialling facilities amongst telephone exchanges in rural areas is under formulation.

(c) A limited scheme for inter-dialling amongst 113 telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh has been introduced on an experimental basis.

Shortfall in Wheat Production

124. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are anticipating or there is a shortfall in the production of wheat in the country due to failure of the monsoon last year; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and how the Government propose to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). Final estimates of production of wheat during 1979-80 have not yet become available from all State Governments. However, according to current assessment, there is likely to be a fall in production of wheat in 1979-80 by about 2-3 million tonnes compared to a level of 35.0 million tonnes in 1978-79. The slight shortfall in production of wheat is not likely to present a problem in view of the comfortable stock position.