

Import of Foreign Telephone Equipment

189. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have placed any orders during the years 1977, 1978 and 1979 for foreign equipment of telephones etc. for urgently meeting pending requirements at home as also for replacing the existing equipment by the new ones in one or more places in the country;

(b) if so, full facts thereof including the companies and the countries from where such purchases are made and the total costs thereof; and

(c) how were the said orders placed, and which equipment was selected for what reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Statement placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

Statement giving details pertaining to Telephone Switching and Telephone Sets are given below.

Item	Name of Company	Approx. cost.	Year and Manner of placing order	Basis for Selection
1. Cross-bar telephone switching equipment 30,000 lines.	M/s. Nippon Electric Co., Ltd. Japan.	Rs. 6 crores	1977 Repeat order based on Global Tender issued in 1974.	Lowest technically acceptable offer.
2. Cross-bar telephone switching equipment 30,000 lines.	M/s. Hitachi Ltd. Japan.	Rs. 6 crores	Do.	Do.
3. Telephone Dials 50,000 nos.	M/s. Tamura & Company Ltd., Japan.	Rs. 12.5 lakhs	1978 Global Tender	Do.
4. Telephone dials 20,000 nos.	Do.	Rs. 5.2 lakh	1979 Global Tender	Do.
5. Headgear sets 7,000 nos.	M/s. STC U.K.	Rs. 10 lakhs	1979 Global Tender	Do.

Provisions for Storing Foodgrains

190. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have adequate and satisfactory provisions for storing foodgrains throughout the country;

(c) if not, what steps are being taken to improve and strengthen the storage capacity for enabling the people to purchase and consume the foodgrains at a later stage;

(d) whether part of the said stored foodgrain is damaged and/or lost by the rat-menace and other factors and causes;

(e) if so, facts thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken to remedy the said situation?

(b) if so, broad facts thereto;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SNGH): (a) to (c). The overall storage facilities with the Food Corporation of India both owned and hired are adequate for the level of stocks with the Corporation. Appropriate measures have also been taken to meet the pressure on storage capacity felt during the peak procurement season. Schemes to increase the owned covered capacity by constructing godowns under various crash programmes and also under buffer storage programme with financial assistance from the World Bank are under implementation. Storage capacity has also been secured by FCI from private parties under the ARDC assisted scheme of encouraging private parties to build godowns on their own lands as per the FCI's specifications.

(d) and (e). Foodgrains storage losses in FCI godowns is caused by various factors but such losses as percentage of the total are not high.

(f) The following steps are taken by the FCI to avoid damage to foodgrains:

(i) The godowns constructed are rat, white ants and damp-proof and provide adequate ventilation and aeration to grains to minimise insect infestation;

(ii) Pre-monsoon inspection of godowns is carried out and repairs undertaken to prevent leakage of rain water;

(iii) Modern pest control measures are undertaken to check the insect, rodent and bird pests;

(iv) Qualified and technically trained staff are deployed for periodical inspection and proper upkeep of the foodgrains.

The following steps have also been taken to ensure safety of stocks stored in CAP:—

(i) The stocks are stored on wooden crates and covered with specially fabricated polythene covers to protect them from rains.

(ii) Nylon ropes are provided for proper lashing of polythene covers to prevent blowing off of covers due to high wind velocity, storms etc.

(iii) Non-filament nets and cover-tops are also provided in major 'CAP' complexes for additional protection against the vagaries of weather.

(iv) Periodical replacement of polythene covers is arranged to ensure protection of foodgrains.

(v) Aeration of stocks by lifting the covers is regularly done to avoid damage due to condensation.

(vi) Special attention is paid to regularly inspect and preserve the stocks stored under CAP.

Demands of Telecommunication Technicians

191. SHRIMATI MRINAL GORE:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any discontentment among the telecommunication technicians in the P&T Department;

(b) if so, what are their main/major demands; and

(c) what steps have been taken to remove the discontentment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) While it may not be correct to suggest that there is discontentment among the technicians in the Telecommunications, it