

telegrams partly on account of adequate complement of staff not being available commensurate with traffic. Telephone services have been affected to some extent due to marginal shortage of staff. The steps taken are as under:—

(i) Revised staff standards are under consideration for certain categories of operative staff.

(ii) A standing pool of reserve trained telegraphists would be created to enable filling up of vacancies urgently.

(iii) Inter-regional circuits are progressively being provided using S+4DX equipments thereby improving circuit availability.

(iv) A maximum of 3 stations excluding the terminals are now being interpolated on a morse omnibus on each circuit.

(v) More zonal delivery offices are being opened, linked directly to CTO, thereby causing reduction in the delay to delivery of telegrams.

(vi) It is proposed to recruit and deploy short duty staff to mitigate the problems arising out of staff shortages.

(vii) To reduce transits, the experimental Gentex scheme is planned to be expanded.

(viii) Standby engine alternators are being provided at all Departmental Telegraph Offices to enable increased utilisation of circuits.

(ix) Recruitment from a standing pool of operators and

(x) Cut in overtime is being reduced for operative staff.

N.D.D.B.'s Operation oilseeds with Clusa

3824. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news report ap-

pearing in "Business Standard" of 30th September, 1980 regarding NDDB's Operation Oilseeds with CLUSA gifts and unauthorised taking over an edible oil factory at Bhavnagar which is now running at a loss; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The project for Re-structuring Edible Oil and Oilseed Production and Marketing formulated by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and approved by the Government of India, *inter alia*, envisages acquiring of processing units by oilseed growers cooperative federations so as to ensure that production, marketing and processing are linked up to the advantage of oilseed growers. In accordance with this objective, the NDDB has taken over the interim management of the Bhavnagar Vegetable Products Limited (under liquidation) on the basis of the order of the Gujarat High Court dated the 19th December, 1977. This arrangement has been extended, from time to time, pending final decision of the Court in the matter.

News item 'wheat quota' cut may hit rural job scheme

3825. SHRI BAGUN SUMBRUI: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the *Times of India* dated the 7th September, 1980 under the heading 'Wheat quota cut may hit rural job scheme';

(b) whether it is a fact that the States were asked to take more rice instead of wheat; and

(c) what has been the response of the State Governments and to what extent the damage has been minimised?