

(c) whether the World Bank is giving any assistance in this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

The Government of Norway had gifted one 256 line electronic exchange which has already been installed. They have further offered aid under their 'Commodity Assistance Programme' for the import of small rural electronic exchanges—three for field trial, one for software centre and one for maintenance and their centre. They have also offered eight fellowships for training on these exchanges in Norway.

The Government of Japan have agreed to provide Yen Credit for import of 30,000 lines of local electronic exchanges. But the utilisation of such credit will depend on decision which may be taken on global tenders which are under scrutiny at present.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

The World Bank under their 6th Loan for telecommunications had extended foreign exchange assistance for the import of 15,000 lines of electronic trunk automatic equipment and 10,400 lines of electronic telex exchange equipment for installation in the four metropolitan cities namely, Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras. In the 7th Telecommunication Loan provision exists for import of equipment for extension of these electronic trunk automatic and telex exchanges.

A further credit (8th), to be extended by the International Development Association, has been appraised by the World Bank group and has recently been negotiated. The agreement is likely to be signed in the

near future. Proposals to be financed by this credit include foreign exchange expenditure on the following items;

(i) Import of 100,000 lines of electronic local exchanges of small and medium size;

(ii) Expansion of the production capacity of the ITI factory at Palghat to produce 1.5 lakh lines (equivalent) per annum of electronic digital trunk automatic exchanges, private automatic branch exchanges, and rural automatic exchanges private automatic exchange.

(iii) Import of 8000 lines of digital trunk automatic exchanges of the same type as will be produced at Palghat.

राज्यों को चीनी के मासिक कोटे में वृद्धि

1911. श्री दिलीप सिंह भूरिया : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या राज्यों को चीनी के मासिक कोटे में वृद्धि की जा रही है; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो मध्य प्रदेश के मासिक कोटे में कितनी वृद्धि की जा रही है ?

कृषि तथा ग्रामीण पुनर्निर्माण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० बी० स्वामीनाथन: (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

PCOs in Marathwada Region of Maharashtra

1912. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for opening of PCOs at Potra, Ramesh-

war Tanda, Goregaon, Rajgarh and Maregaon in Marathwada region of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Public Call Office at Goregaon has been sanctioned. The proposal for Maregaon is under consideration. The proposals for provision of P.C.Os at Potra, Rameshwar Tanda and Rajgarh are not remunerative and they are not falling under the category stations coming under the present policy of the Department.

Procurement of foodgrains by F.C.I.

1913. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Food Corporation of India is procuring on an average 250 lakh tonnes of foodgrains per year and cost per quintal of wheat comes to Rs. 161.05 including overhead costs.

(b) whether Government are also aware that the Food Corporation of India is supplying wheat so procured to the roller flour mills at Rs. 130.00 per quintal and losing on an average Rs. 200 crores annually;

(c) whether Government are further aware that the above policy of the Food Corporation of India is helping in generating black money in the hands of traders resulting into its bad effects; and

(d) whether Government propose to stop the practice of giving subsidy to roller flour mill-owners in the national interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):

(a) No, Sir. The average annual

procurement of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India for the Central Pool during the past five years was about 94 lakh tonnes. Out of this, the quantity of wheat was only about 52 lakh tonnes. The cost of wheat procured for the Central Pool in 1979-80 was about Rs. 157.38 per quintal.

(b) Wheat is supplied from the Central Pool to the State Governments, both for public distribution and for roller flour mills, at a uniform issue price of Rs. 130 per quintal. But the loss on supplies for roller flour mills alone is not of the order of Rs. 200 crores per annum. In 1979-80, the total quantity supplied to the roller flour mills from the Central Pool was 3.16 million tonnes involving a total loss of about Rs. 86.5 crores.

(c) No, Sir. The roller flour mills are not allowed to purchase wheat in the open market and are required to lift their quotas from the Government stocks. The prices of their wheat products are controlled by the Government. This has enabled the consumers to obtain their requirements of wheat products as also bakery products at reasonable prices.

(d) The question of fixing the issue price for roller flour mills at a higher level than that for public distribution is under examination.

More Post Offices in Malabar area of Kerala

1914. SHRI K. KUNHAMBU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before his Ministry to set up more post offices in the Malabar area of Kerala in view of its backward areas in regard to communication facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?