

ganj, Asansol and Durgapur as the present telephone cables are subject to thefts.

(iii) STD service to Calcutta already exists from Asansol, Raniganj and other group exchanges. Technical works relating to extension of the STD facility to Delhi have been completed and the route is under traffic trials.

Political leaders in occupation of Government Accommodation

5496. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are a number of political leaders who have been Members of Parliament or Metropolitan Councils or had been holding some other posts, are still in occupation of Government Accommodation;

(b) if so, the number of such persons and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some of them have got their own houses in Delhi but they are not vacating the Government accommodation; and

(d) whether some of them are also not making regular payment of rent and if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND
HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA
NARA'N SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 17 political leaders who are still occupying Government accommodation. In 7 cases, allotments have been cancelled and further action to get the houses vacated is in progress. Position with regard to the remaining is as follows:—

(i) Seven ex-MPs. from Assam have been allowed to retain accommodation till the election process in that State is completed.

(ii) one ex-M.P. has been allowed to retain accommodation in his capacity as Chairman of a Government Committee.

(iii) One ex-M.P. has expired but his family has been allowed to retain accommodation up to May, 1981.

(iv) In one case, allotment has been continued on medical grounds up to 9-2-81. His request for further retention is under examination.

(c) Under the rules, Members of Parliament are not barred for allotment of Government accommodation and, therefore, this information is not available with this Ministry.

(d) Yes, Sir. Steps are being taken to realise the outstanding amounts.

Foodgrains for part payment of wages under employment Guarantee Scheme in Maharashtra

5497. PROF. MADHU DANDA-
VATE: Will the Minister of RURAL
RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to
state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate foodgrains are not made available to Maharashtra for the payment of part of the wages in the form of foodgrains to the workers working in the Employment Guarantee Scheme; and

(b) if so, what steps are taken to remove the difficulties faced by the workers working in this scheme for want of adequate food assistance from the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI
BALESHWAR RAM): (a) and (b)
Allocation of foodgrains to different States under National Rural Employment Programme are made on the basis of a fixed formula, under which weightage to the extent of 75 per cent is given to the population of agricultural labourers/marginal farmers and of 25 per cent to the incidence of