

Overseas Communication Service

2957. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are satisfied with the performance and earning of the Overseas Communications Service, which is operating overseas channels through the satellite system; and

(b) if so, the growth rate in telephone during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes. Since the commissioning of the Vikram Satellite Earth Station at Arvi in February, 1971, the performance of overseas channels through the Satellite system continues to be highly reliable. The gross revenue earned by the Overseas Communications Service has also increased from Rs. 6.96 crores in 1970/71, pre-Satellite year to an estimated figures of Rs. 9.47 crores for 1973-74

(b) The growth rate in overseas telephone traffic in paid minutes for 1972-73 was 54 per cent over the previous year. The growth rate for 1973-74 is estimate to be 41 per cent.

Charges against C.I.S.F. Officers in Burdwan

2958. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether two officers of the Central Industrial Security Force have recently been arrested on charges of smuggling in Burdwan, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) what further action, if any, is being taken in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two Asst. Sub-Inspectors, one Head Security Guard and six Security Guards of the C.I.S.F. were arrested by the State Police on 5-12-1973 for violation of State Food Laws when they were bringing to Durgapur 15 quintals of wheat and 4.5 quintal of rice purchased from Galoohi in Burdwan district. The foodgrains were reported to have been purchased for bonafide consumption of the CISF personnel stationed in Durgapur Plant as their rationed quota was found inadequate.

(c). The case is at present sub-judice.

Rural Development during Fifth Plan

2959. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the broad proposals for rural development during the next plan period;

(b) the outlays in the above sector; and

(c) the mechanism the Government have in mind to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) In addition to the general programmes in agriculture sector (including animal husbandry, dairying, livestock, fisheries and forests) and irrigation sector which will contribute to increased rural income and thus help rural development, the following specific programmes of rural development are proposed to be taken up during the Fifth Five Year Plan—

- (1) programmes for improvement of small farmers, marginal farmers and agricultural labour to be undertaken in about 160 districts. These