

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Dr. Sirohi is the first Indian Scientist to visit the South Pole as a member of a Scientific Team from the University of California at Los Angeles during 1960-61. He was at that time working as a Research Scientist in that University. The object of this expedition was to ascertain whether any factor associated with the earth's rotation regulated the biological clock of plants and animals. The U. S. Board of Geographic Names have named one place in the South Pole as 'Sirohi Point' in recognition of his work as the member of the expedition.

(c) and (d). Dr. G. S. Sirohi was appointed at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in 1963, in the scale of Rs. 700-50-1250. Thereafter, he has been offered the post of senior Plant Physiologist in the pay scale of Rs. 1100-50-1400. While making these selections the Selection Committees had, no doubt, taken into consideration, all his achievements in the field of Agricultural science.

Voters for Presidential Elections

10273. SHRI M. MEGHACHANDRA: Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have examined the points raised in the judgement and order given by the Court of Judicial Commissioner, Manipur in the Election Writ case filed by 15 inhabitants of Manipur and the Judgement announced on the 5th April, 1968 ;

(b) if so, whether the Election Commission has to enrol as votes the members of the Legislatures in the Union Territories in the Election of the President of India ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI M. YUNUS SALEEM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Election Commission considers that the order given by the Judicial Commissioner, Manipur has no bearing with the constitution of electoral college contemplated under article 54 of the Constitution.

Teleprinter service between Delhi-Agartala and Calcutta-Agartala

10274. SHRI KIRIT BIKRAM DEB BURMAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) on how many occasions and for how long the Teleprinter service between Delhi-Agartala and Calcutta-Agartala were interrupted or cut during 1967 and in 1968 so far ;

(b) the reasons for such frequent failures of this link ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the Teleprinter service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) There is no direct teleprinter circuit between Delhi and Agartala but the telegrams are generally routed *via* Calcutta. The number of occasions and the period of interruption for the telegraph service between Calcutta and Agartala during 1967 and in 1968 till 30.4.68 are as follows :—

Year	No. of occasions of service interrupted.	Period of interruption.
1967	41	194 hrs.
1968 (till 30.4.68)	14	62 „

(b) Interruptions to telegraph service are due to—

- (1) unstable power supply at Agartala ;
- (2) adverse weather conditions affecting wireless working.

(c) As a short-term measure for improving service, stand-by power plants have been ordered to be installed at Agartala. As a long-term measure, microwave links have been planned for connecting Agartala to Calcutta for telecommunication purposes

Plywood Factory in Tripura

10275. SHRI KIRIT BIKRAM DEB BURMAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether, in connection with the proposal to set up a plywood factory in