

procured by the Governments of Manipur and Tripura upto the 31st March, 1968 ;

(b) the shortfall in the target of procurement ; and

(c) the steps adopted to achieve the target ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) About 4,400 tonnes of paddy were procured in Manipur upto 31st March, 1968. For Tripura, figures are available only upto 23rd March, 1968 and up to that date, about 2200 tonnes of paddy were procured.

(b) In the targets of kharif procurement recommended by the Agricultural Prices Commission, no separate figures have been recommended in the case of Manipur and Tripura.

(c) Does not arise.

Telegram Communications from Imphal to Manipur

7016. SHRI M. MEGHACHANDRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that telegram communications from Imphal to places outside Manipur take a long time and actually takes nearly a week to reach even Dimapur-Manipur Road, only 133 miles away from Imphal ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay ; and

(c) the action taken to improve the line ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) A maximum delay of about 20 hours in transmission of telegrams to and from Imphal has come to notice.

(b) The delay mentioned above is due to interruption of circuits.

(c) A proposal for extending the radio teleprinter working round the clock from Imphal to Gauhati is under consideration. A direct telegraph outlet between Imphal

and Dimapur is also being provided. Proposals are also under examination for linking Imphal by Microwave relay system to the National trunk network.

Linesmen and Mechanics in Telephone Department

7017. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :
SHRI H. AJMAL KHAN :
SHRI V. NARASIMHA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of linesmen and mechanics are working on daily wages basis in the Telephone Department ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the wages paid to those working on daily wage basis and those on regular basis ; and

(d) whether it is done with the prior sanction of the Finance Ministry or it is done arbitrarily by the Department itself ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) No. Linesmen and mechanics are recruited as per prescribed rules in regular scales of pay.

(b) As there are no daily wage staff in these categories, this does not arise.

(c) The pay scales of linesmen and mechanics are as follows :—

Linesmen :—Rs. 75-1-35-EB-2-95

Mechanics :—Rs. 110-4-150-5-175-EB-6-205-EB-7-240.

(d) Does not arise.

Import of Tractors from Rumania

7018. SHRI LAKHAN LAL GUPTA :
SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL :
SHRI A.S. SAIGAL :
SHRI NATHU RAM
AHIRWAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for the import of tractors from Rumania ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and