

of Parliament, a complaint, enclosing, *inter-alia*, copies of others from two persons in Kangra District, and of a communication from Shri L. V. Valvi, Member of Parliament, both addressed to the District Officer. The papers were forwarded to the Himachal Pradesh Administration for necessary action.

Agricultural Production

7577. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made recently by the Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research that India's gross national agricultural production can be increased significantly within a short time by applying the latest production techniques ; and

(b) if so, the steps which Government propose to take to implement his suggestions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India are already working towards a rapid transformation of Indian Agriculture on scientific lines. To achieve this end, a high yielding varieties programme has been initiated with the object of covering a large part of the irrigated area in the country with seeds of improved varieties of rice, wheat, millets and other crops, and making available simultaneously fertilisers and other inputs. Also steps have been taken to intensify research work on the development of new high yielding varieties in different crop plants and for increasing the efficiency of use of fertilisers and other inputs.

Rice and Wheat Boards

7578. SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRI D. N. PATODIA :

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Director of the Indian Agricultural Research

Institute suggesting to set up a Rice Board and a Wheat Board to draw up indicative plans for the production of these crops every year and to assure the farmers price levels regarded as desirable by Government and the Agricultural Prices Commission ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes.

(b) This was the opinion expressed by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, in his capacity as a scientist while addressing a Symposium on "Accelerating Genetic Improvement of India's Plant Resources". After getting the full proceedings of the Symposium the matter will be further examined by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Government of India.

Payment of Dearness Allowance to Working Journalists

7579. SHRI D. C. SHARMA :
SHRI BENI SHANKER
SHARMA :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase of 40 points in the All-India average Consumer Price Index which is also applicable to Working Journalists ;

(b) whether the first revision in dearness allowance due in January, 1968 has taken place ;

(c) if so, whether the payment Rs. 20/- on account of this increase has been made to Working Journalists of Newspapers establishments in Delhi ; and

(d) if not, the steps Government propose to take to implement this recommendation ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI) : (a) The average of the index for the year 1967 comes to 209 points while the average for 1965 was 166.