

'Direct Purchase Point' for Foodgrains

2229. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India has recently opened a 'direct purchase point' in Hapur (U.P.);

(b) if so, the benefits likely to be derived by the farmers in getting the maximum price of their produce and in eliminating the middle-man thereby; and

(c) whether Government propose to open such 'direct purchase points' in other States also?

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

(b) The farmers are assured of a fair price for their foodgrains.

(c) Yes, Sir, when and where necessary.

Domestic Satellite Communications

2230. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that talks were held recently in New Delhi with the Chairman of the Communications Satellite to set up domestic satellite communications system in the country;

(b) If so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the result of the talks held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) to (c). The talks with the Chairman of the Communications Satellite Corporation were of a general nature covering the field of

satellite communications. No specific proposal for setting up a domestic satellite communications system in the country was discussed.

Lahiri Commission Report on Food Riots in West Bengal

2231. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the observations made by Shri Surajit Lahiri who was appointed as Chairman of the Enquiry Commission to enquire into the widespread Food Riots and violent demonstrations in West Bengal in 1968;

(b) if so, the main observation and recommendations of Shri Lahiri; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon and whether Government propose to set up another Commission or reconstitute the same Commission to go into the further details of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) A press report of a statement, stated to have been made by Shri Surajit Lahiri, has come to the Government's notice.

(b) and (c). The Enquiry Commission under the Chairmanship of Shri Surajit Lahiri which was appointed by the West Bengal Government in April, 1966 was dissolved by them in March, 1967 before conclusion of its proceedings. Government cannot take cognisance of the views expressed in the Press report. They have no intention to appoint another such Commission or reconstitute the same Commission now.