

FOOD BONUSES TO STATES

4962. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have suspended the issue of food bonuses to those States which supply surplus wheat to the Centre;

(b) whether some of the States have requested the Centre to reconsider their case; and

(c) if so, on what grounds the issue of the bonuses has been suspended and whether Government have contemplated any incentive scheme whereby the surplus States would be able to keep up their contribution to the Central fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) There is no scheme to make incentive bonus payments to State Governments for supply of wheat to the Centre this year.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Incentive bonus payments to State Governments add to the economic cost of procuring the grain, which is ultimately passed on to the consumer. In view of the bumper harvest of wheat and the necessity of providing incentive price to the farmer and reasonable prices to the consumer, it was not considered desirable to pay food bonuses for wheat to State Governments. Even without the bonus, the anticipated supplies to Central pool have been exceeded.

RE-ORGANISATION OF BILLING SYSTEM IN DELHI TELEPHONE DISTRICT

4963. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any improvement in the payment of bills as a result of the reorganisation of the

billing system introduced in the Delhi Telephone District;

(b) the number of telephones which were disconnected sometime back for the non-payment of arrears;

(c) the number of complaints that were received during 1967-68 for faulty billing; and

(d) whether, as a result of re-organised billing system, there will be some economy on the administrative side?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes.

(b) About 5850, in 1968.

(c) Information is not readily available.

(d) Yes, Economy is expected.

UNDER STAMPED POSTAL ARTICLES

4964. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to negligence and lack of supervision at various Post Offices, more particularly at the Post Offices in Calcutta, large number of Postal articles which are under-stamped are being delivered to the addressees without collection of over-dues;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment of the loss incurred by the Exchequer due to such neglect;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to set up a Departmental Commission of Enquiry to go into the details of the problem and suggest effective measures;

(d) whether the Posts and Telegraphs Department have already any machinery to keep control over under-stamped articles and to see that overdue amounts are properly collected before delivery of the article; and