

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI M. YUNUS SALEEM):** (a) and (b). **Uttar Pradesh:** With the agreement of all the political parties in Uttar Pradesh arrived at in a meeting of their representatives convened by the Chief Election Commissioner at Lucknow on the 22nd of May 1968 and after discussions with the Governor of Uttar Pradesh who also held a similar view, it was tentatively decided to hold the mid-term election in Uttar Pradesh in the second half of February, 1969.

**Bihar:** So far as Bihar is concerned, the Chief Election Commissioner has not yet met the Governor of Bihar or the representatives of the political parties. No time for the holding of the mid-term election in Bihar has therefore been fixed even tentatively.

(c) There has been no pressure from any political party on the Election Commission.

#### **Wage Board for Journalists**

**836. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of **LABOUR AND REHABILITATION** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the **Wage Board for Journalists** and non-working Journalists have since been implemented by all Newspapers;

(b) if not, the steps taken by Government to get them implemented through State Governments or otherwise; and

(c) the response of the State Governments in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI):**

(a) Two separate statements showing the available information on the progress of implementation of the recommendations of the **Wage Boards** are placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1439/68].

(b) and (c). The recommendations of the **Wage Board for Working Journalists** are enforceable statutorily and the State Governments are taking necessary action to secure their implementation. Recommendations of the **Wage Board for Non-working Journalists** however are not enforceable statutorily and their implementation is to be secured mainly by persuasion and advice. The State Governments are taking necessary action in this regard also.

#### **Transport Rail of Foodgrains by Railways in Punjab and Haryana**

**837. SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA:**  
**SHRI S. N. MAITI:**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministries of Food and Agriculture and Railways had recently blamed each other for lack of cooperation by each other in properly handling the bumper food crop in Haryana and Punjab; and

(b) if so, the reasons for lack of co-ordination in this matter?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE):** (a) No, Sir. Some reports appearing in the press did give this wrong impression and a joint statement was, therefore, issued to the press by both the Ministries to correct any such impression.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Loading of Foodgrains in Haryana and Punjab**

**838. SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA:** Will the Minister of **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was acute shortage of labour in Haryana and Punjab which delayed loading of foodgrains; and

(b) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). During the peak procurement period, occasional labour shortage was experienced at some places; but this difficulty was not allowed to come in the way of expeditious despatch of procured foodgrains.

Labour shortage at this time of the year is usual but was aggravated this year because of the bumper rabi crop and the unprecedented volume of procurement and movement of foodgrains from Punjab and Haryana.

#### Implementation of Wage Board Awards

839. SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Wage Board awards have not been fully implemented by some industrial units like collieries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to enforce the awards?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Wage Boards except the Wage Board for Working Journalists are not enforceable statutorily. The implementation authorities are, therefore, taking action to secure implementation of the recommendations through persuasion and advice.

#### Teleprinters in Regional Languages

840. SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any programme for the production of

Teleprinters in regional languages; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b). The Hindustan Teleprinters Limited are manufacturing English and Hindi teleprinters. There is no programme of producing teleprinters in regional languages.

#### Fire in Telephone Exchange in New Delhi

841. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fire had broken out in Telephone Exchange of the Divisional Superintendent's Office (Northern Railway), New Delhi six months back;

(b) if so, the amount of loss sustained by the Post and Telegraphs Department as a result thereof;

(c) whether the causes of the fire have been ascertained; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes. Fire broke out in the PABX at Divisional Supdt's office on 20-12-67.

(b) Rs. 841.22 approximately.

(c) Yes.

(d) The fire had broken out due to intense local heating on the keyshelf of the board, possibly due to Electric heaters. It was gathered that heater was placed on the keyshelf by the operators to warm themselves up as the night was cold in December.