

arrears of Rs. 4,15,00,384 outstanding against various employers on account of Employees State Insurance Scheme upto the 30th June 1968 ;

(b) if so, the names of employers with arrear more than Rs. 5,000 ;

(c) whether the arrears have increased further ;

(d) if so, total arrears upto the 31st December, 1968 ; and

(e) the action taken on different employers respectively to realise the dues ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : Recovery of contributions due under the Employees State Insurance Scheme is the responsibility of the Employees State Insurance Corporation set up under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948. The information furnished by the Corporation is as under :—

(a) The total arrears as on 30-6-1968 are Rs. 4,51,00,384/-.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-223/69.*]

(c) and (d). The arrear position of the contributions due under the Employees' State Insurance Act is assessed periodically and the position for the period upto 31-12-1968 would be known by the middle of May, 1969.

(e) Legal action by way of recovery proceedings and prosecution, where necessary, has been taken against employers in respect of an amount of about Rs. 3 crores and notices have been issued calling upon employers to pay the dues amounting to a further crores of rupees.

Telecommunication facilities

1904. SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :
SHRI S. S. KOTHARI :
SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that during 1967-68 and 1968-69 there was improvement

in telecommunication facilities in the country ;

(b) if so, what are the main development made during this period ;

(c) what progress was made during the period in regard to Overseas Communications Service ; and

(d) the projected programme of development during the Fourth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main developments in regard to Telecommunication facilities during the period are shown in statement I laid on Table of the Lok Sabha. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-224/69.*]

(c) Progress made during the period in regard to Overseas Communications Services is shown in Statement II laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*Placed in Library, See No. LT-224/69.*]

(d) The details of the programme of development during the Fourth Plan are shown in statements III and IV laid on the Lok Sabha. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-224/69.*] Statement III is in regard to Telecommunications Facilities and Statement IV is in regard to Overseas Communications Services.

Fruit Production Programme

1905. SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :
SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD :

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

(a) whether Government have launched an all-India co-ordinated research programme for eight important fruits of which the export-oriented one will receive the priority ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether Government have also set up Central Institute of Horticultural Research at Bangalore to take care of the problems facing the fruit industry.