

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH): (a) and (b). The orders issued by Government relate to re-examinations in case of employees who have been suspended, arrested or prosecuted solely under sec. 4 of the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance 1968 or for mere absence on 19th Sept. 1968 in the connection with the last strike.

(c) The information is being collected from the subordinate units and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha shortly.

(d) The cases of employees not covered by the decision cited above, i.e. those involved in instigation incitement under sec. 5 of the ordinance or under any other criminal law; will take their own course depending on the outcome of the court/departmental proceedings.

#### Rice Crop during Rabi Season.

419. SHRI D.N. PATODIA:  
SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:

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

(a) what are the prospects of rice crop during the rabi season;

(b) what would be the total shortage of rice within the country after rabi crop season; and

(c) the sources from which it is likely to be procured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Firm estimates of area and production of summer rice crop sown during the current rabi season would become available only after the close of the Agricultural year, i.e. some time in July-August, 1969.

(b) and (c). The demand for foodgrains like that for other commodities is elastic. One type of foodgrain can also be substituted by another to a certain extent. It is, therefore, difficult to assess the requirements and shortage of rice in the country after the current rabi crop

season. Arrangements have, however, been made to import some rice from Burma, Thailand and Australia. Some more rice may also be imported from these and other foreign countries.

#### Marketing of Farm Produce and Fertilizers through Cooperatives

420. SHRI D.N. PATODIA:  
SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to give a great share to the cooperatives for marketing of farm produce and fertilizers during the Fourth Plan period;

(b) if so, whether the targets have been drawn up in this connection; and

(c) how the targets compare with those during the Third Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes. The cooperatives are expected to play a significant role in the marketing of farm produce and distribution of fertilisers during the Fourth Plan period.

(b) Yes. Tentative targets for the country as a whole have been drawn up.

(c) The cooperatives are expected to handle Rs. 900 crores worth of agricultural produce during the last year of the Fourth Plan as against Rs. 360 crores during the last year of the Third Plan period. As regards fertilisers, the cooperative distribution system is likely to handle Rs. 650 crores worth of fertilizer in the last year of the Fourth Plan as against Rs. 80 crores worth of fertilizer distributed in the last year of the Third Plan.

#### Corporation for State Farms

421. SHRI D. N. PATODIA:  
SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN:  
SHRI SITARAM KESRI:  
SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA:  
SHRI YASHPAL SINGH:  
SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to replace departmental management and bring the State farms under a corporation;

(b) in what way the departmental management has been found lacking;

(c) the main functions proposed to be assigned to this corporation; and

(d) when a decision in this regard will be taken?

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

(b) A departmental set-up does not give the operational and administrative flexibility necessary for running commercial organisations like State Farms. Such a set-up also results in delays which are detrimental to efficient business management.

(c) The main functions of the Corporation will be to set up and run agricultural farms for the production of seeds of foodgrains, fibre crops, plantation crops, oilseeds, fruits, etc.

(d) A decision to set up the Corporation has already been taken. It will start functioning after the funds needed for the purpose are voted by Parliament.

**C.B.I. Investigation into Medical Reimbursement cases in P & T Regions**

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

(a) the names of different Posts and Telegraphs regions where the claims of medical reimbursement bills appear to be excessive; and

(b) whether Government proposed to solicit the assistance of the C. B. I. to probe into some cases in these regions to check submission of bogus Medical Bills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH): (a)

No financial limits have been laid down for allowing reimbursement of medical expenses. However in Andhra, Madras, U. P. and Rajasthan the claim is above the all India average.

(b) Assistance of the C.B.I. in investigating suspicious medical claims is sought as per orders of the Government.

**New Telephone Connections in Coimbatore**

423. SHRI E. K. NAYANAR:  
SHRI NAMBIAR:  
SHRI K. RAMANI:  
SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Posts and Telegraphs Department is unable to provide new telephone connections as sanctioned by the Telephone Advisory Committee due to shortage of parts and other materials in Coimbatore; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to expedite the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH): (a) There is no general shortage as such of stores or parts in Coimbatore proper and telephones approved by the Telephone Advisory Committee are being provided in the normal course. There is, however, shortage of underground cables in some of the suburbs and 24 connections are held up on that account out of a total of 750 approved by the Telephone Advisory Committee.

(b) There is a general shortage of Telephone cables in the country. As soon as the position of supply improves, the provision of connection will be expedited.

**Sale of Imported Wheat**

424. SHRI BHAGBAN DAS:  
SHRI UMANATH.  
SHRI K. RAMANI:  
SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN:

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