

sold out on the next day. Only such quantities of products that may be unfit for sale are returned to the Central Dairy as damaged stocks. Total quantity of milk products returned to the Central Dairy during the period March 69 to February 1970 and value thereof, are indicated in the above mentioned statement I. Average quantity of milk products returned per day is negligible.

(c) Statements indicating the quantities of various types of milk/milk-products issued from the Central Dairy to Milk Stall/Milk Bar, quantities sold and quantity returned during the period from January 1969 to February, 1970 (month-wise), separately for Milk Stall and Milk-Bar are given in statements II & III, laid on the Table of the House, [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3139/70.]

(d) and (e) The actual requirements of the various types of milk and milk products are assessed by the Manager of the Milk Stall/Milk Bar from day to day and are issued accordingly except in rare cases where stocks may not for some reason be temporarily available.

#### Working of D. M. S. Booth in Parliament House

5699. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the timings for the opening and closing of the D. M. S.'s Milk Booth/Bar inside Parliament House are in synchronisation with the timings of the sitting of the two Houses of Parliament during the session periods;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the D. M. S. has received numerous complaints in the recent past that most of the different varieties of milk and milk items like curd, ghee, butter etc. are "sold-out" and declared "out-of-stock", by the Staff working at the above Booths even during the earlier parts of the day during the recent session periods;

(d) if so, whether any high-level surprise checks have been carried out at the above Booths to see whether the milk-stuff does not find its way outside the Parliament House with the connivance of the milk booth staff, or is concealed to oblige a selected few persons or VIPs; and

(e) if so, when (with dates) and the action taken thereon and with tangible results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) The normal working hours of (i) Milk Stall and (ii) Milk Bar located in the Parliament House are from 9.30 A.M. to 6.00 P.M. However, in accordance with the existing arrangements the milk stall is kept open on holidays if the Parliament is in session or for the sittings of the Parliamentary Committees on such days. The Milk Stall is also kept open to synchronise with the timings of the two Houses of Parliament, if and when required.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the year 1969-70, Delhi Milk Scheme received from the Members of Parliament only two written complaints about the non-availability of hot milk and curd/lassi; and one written complaint about non-supply of ghee packed in one-kg. tins. During the period 1-3-70 to 12-3-70, some verbal complaints were also received in regard to non-availability of table butter.

(d) The Milk Stall and Milk Bar are being regularly inspected and no such mal-practices have been detected. It may, however, be stated that only small quantities of curd are being manufactured by D. M. S. in its Quality Control Laboratory for supply only to the Parliament House. The Scheme has been out of stock for 1-kg. tins for about two months. Supply of butter during the period 1-3-70 to 12-3-70 was stopped because of levy of excise duty in connection with the finalisation of the related formalities.

(e) Does not arise.

#### Co-operative Sugar Factories in Nasik Maharashtra

5700. SHRI Z. M. KAHANDOLE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that application has been made to Government for a few new cooperative sugar factories in Nasik district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, where is the application from and for how many factories; and

(c) what is Government going to do about it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) to (c). Two applications have been received in August/September, 1969 for the grant of licences for the establishment of two new cooperative sugar factories at Khedgaon and Palse in Nasik District of Maharashtra.

Both the applications are under consideration.

#### Fixation of Price of Gur

5701. SHRI Z. M. KAHANDOLE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cultivators of Maharashtra have suffered a great loss due to enormous fall in the prices of Gur this year;

(b) whether it is not possible for Government to protect the prices of Gur;

(c) whether it is not the policy of Government to protect the Agricultural produce prices; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not protecting the price of Gur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE): (a). Yes, Sir, there has been a substantial fall in prices of gur in Maharashtra this year as compared with the prices during 1968-69.

(b) to (d). With a view to protecting the price of gur, the Government of India, in addition to withdrawing the ban on forward trading in gur, have also acquired powers to permit the use of gur for the following purposes:—

- (i) use in tobacco industry
- (ii) use in leather tanning industry
- (iii) use in chemical industry
- (iv) any other industrial use.

As a result of these steps, the prices of gur have registered an improvement in some States. In order to maximise

crushing of sugarcane by sugar factories, the Government of India have decided to give an excise duty rebate of Rs. 8 per quintal of sugar produced during 1969-70 season in excess of 105% of its production during 1968-69 season. Besides, the State Government have given necessary facilities to sugar factories to extend crushing season and have also appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Minister of Agriculture for studying the problem of remunerative prices for agricultural produce.

#### Repairs of Telephone Lines of Nasik Distt. in Maharashtra

5702. SHRI Z. M. KAHANDOLE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the telephone lines of the Surgana, Dindori, Satana, Deola and Kalvan areas of district of Maharashtra are usually out of order;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the general public of this area has been demanding for some time repairs and/or replacement of these lines and/or equipment; and

(c) the steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH): (a) Not usually, Sir. During the months of February and March, 70, however, due to the reconstruction of the alignment for providing independent lines for each P. C. O. instead of working them on a common pair of wires, there was disturbance to these circuits. But this did not seriously affect the performance of the Circuits.

(b) Yes, Sir. The work is in progress as stated above in (a).

(c) (i) Steps have been taken to separate P. C. Os. working in tandem with only a common pair, as stated at (a) above.

(ii) Estimates for the installation of telephone exchanges at Dindori (25 lines automatic) and at Deola and Kalvan (50 lines automatic each) and additional trunk lines between Satana and Malegaon are under preparation.