

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.