

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SANJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In Almora District, only Almora Exchange has waiting list of 199. This waiting list is likely to be exhausted on commissioning of 2048 Lines ILT exchange during 1991-92 subject to receipt of equipment.

Interim Relief to Employees of Department of Posts

*90. SHRI SUKHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an interim relief of Rs. 100 has been given to the employees of the Department of Telecommunications and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, in Bombay and Delhi;

(h) if so, whether the employees of Department of Posts are also demanding the same; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SANJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, an ad hoc payment of Rs. 100/- per month has been sanctioned w.e.f. 1.9.90 only to those Group. 'C' and 'D' employees of the Department of Telecom who are working on deemed deputation to MTNL, pending finalisation of terms and conditions of their absorption in MTNL. This ad hoc payment is not payable to the other employees of Department of Telecom including those posted in Delhi/Bombay but working outside the purview of MTNL.

(b) and (c). There was a demand from one of the service Unions for payment of interim relief to the employees of Depart-

ment of Posts. There is no justification for the same.

[English]

Impact of the Gulf War on Fertilizer Industry

*91. SHRI R. GUNDU RAO:
SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fertilizer industry has been critically affected due to the Gulf war,

(b) whether due to increase in crude prices in the international market the prices of Naphtha, the raw material for nitrogenous fertilizers and that of finished fertilizers are going up;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to import fertilizers to meet the widening gap between their demand and supply; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to save the fertilizer industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) While the production of nitrogenous fertilizer industry has not been significantly affected, the production of phosphatic fertilizers dependent on the imported intermediates and raw-materials have been partially affected due to the Gulf War.

(b) The prices of Naphtha and other petroleum products used for fertilizer production have gone up on account of 25 per cent Gulf Surcharge. Similarly, the price of imported fertilizers is also showing an up-