

[English]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that delay has been noticed in recent years as far as distribution of mail in many parts of the country is concerned. It has been the endeavour of the Postal administration to improve the facilities. I have already explained our limitations to the House. As far as E.D. employees are concerned, there are more than about two and a half lakh employees and I myself said that these people have been treated shabbily, almost like bonded labour, for the last forty years. And I have personally found it very revolting. But I am helpless. That is why I have been requesting both the Planning Commission as well the Finance Ministry of the Government to take this problem into consideration so that they can be treated better and that would also obviously mean improvement of services. We have also various other plans to improve the services and we hope that with the help of all concerned, we will be able to improve the services.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, in view of the fact that very recently we find courier services are adopted in many parts of the country, large number of people including those who associate with Governmental work, are taking the help of courier services. It is a serious reflection on the efficiency of the postal department. May I request the hon. Minister to see that at least Government agencies, at least Government departments do not take refuge to these courier services but encourage postal service?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: Sir, it is left to them. I would not like to infringe upon the autonomy of the other Ministries or the Governmental organisations. But I am sure we will take the views of the hon. Member into consideration.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that norms have been fixed for the employees

engaged in dak distribution in towns and villages on the basis of distance in kilometres. I think the employees, who distribute dak in small villages, especially in Maharashtra, have to pass through hilly areas. I therefore, would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether any separate norms would be prescribed for them?

[English]

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: The suggestion is noted.

[Translation]

Jute Canvas Bags for NSC Wheat Seeds

*517. **SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of firms which supply jute canvas bags for the packing of certified wheat seeds of the National Seeds Corporation;

(b) whether the distribution of 80 thousand quintal of certified wheat seeds was help up in the Rabi season 1989;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIDEVI LAL): (a) During 1989-90: M/s. Haryana Supply Agency, Calcutta and M/s. Shree Hanuman Iron Works, Calcutta, supplied jute canvas bags for packing of certified wheat seeds.

(b) Yes, Sir. Certified wheat seeds to the tune of 74,532 quintals remained unsold, during Rabi-1989.

(c) Poor off-take of National Seed Corporation's certified wheat seeds at the prevailing market prices.

- (d) (i) to clear the unsold wheat stocks, National Seeds Corporation has been allowed to export 50,000 quintals of certified wheat seeds to Afghanistan.
- (ii) Orders have issued in March, 1990 advising the State Governments to provide subsidy to NSC/SFCI at par with State Seed Corporations or similar State Agencies.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has tried to conceal 2-3 things in his reply. Many State Governments made demands for supply of quality seeds of wheat. The firm which supplies quality wheat seeds operates in three different names, which is not a healthy of practice business. Time-schedule to make supply was extended on the basis of conventional commission. The time schedule for the bags, which were supposed to be supplied in July, was extended by five months. As a result, there was a loss of approximately three crores and the seeds could not be distributed. I would like to know the reason therefor?

SHRI DEVI LAL: The question raised by the hon. Member is, of course, related to the Government but it pertains to the period of the previous Government. However, I am trying to find out the reason as to why the seeds were held up and why bags were purchased.

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Has the hon. Minister received a memorandum in which it has been alleged that 80 thousand quintal of wheat seed were withheld due to non-payment of commission to the firm which operates in three different names and which is minting money? I would like to know whether any enquiry is to be made in the matter?

SHRI DEVI LAL: The question raised by the hon. Member is related to a firm. This

is not a single case of bungling but thousands of such bungs have taken place. Many such complaints are received. Your complaint will also be looked into.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are aware that the jute industry is the oldest industry of our country. This industry has been facing a lot of problems for the last few years. They are getting fewer orders for supply. Thus, the responsibility of saving the jute industry lies on the Central Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether any arrangements have been made by the Government to ensure that only jute bags are used for carrying seeds by the National Seeds Corporation?

SHRI DEVI LAL: Measures are being taken to give encouragement to jute industry. We are looking into corruption rampant in supply of jute bags. It will take some time to complete the enquiry. All loopholes will be plugged.

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: It is a fact that efforts are being made to promote jute industry. As regards supply of jute bags, there is monopoly of some firms over it. I would like to know whether any step will be taken to break the monopoly of those firms so as to provide equal opportunity to one and all?

SHRI DEVI LAL: For this tenders are duly invited and the decision is taken on the basis of lowest tender which is accepted for awarding contract for supply of jute bags.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Agriculture Minister the quantity of seeds distributed through N.S.C., its total requirements and whether the supply of seeds fully meets the demand? I would also like to know whether any subsidy was given by the Finance Ministry in respect of said 80 thousand quintals of seeds, if so when it was given and whether there was any delay in it, if so reason, therefor? In reference to part B of the question, Shri Devi Lal said that a lot of corruption was there during the period of the previous Government. I throw a chal-

lenge to him to cite even a single instance of corruption during the previous Government. A man is known by the language he uses. I throw a challenge to Shri Devi Lal. I said earlier also. Mr. Speaker, Sir, whenever he rises to speak, he levels charges of corruption. I throw him a challenge to prove it. If charges are proved, I will resign, if not, he should resign. Sometimes he says that he does 'Prabhu's Bhajan' and some times he says he offers prayer to 'Pujari'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVI LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not levelled charges against any particular person. 'Prabhu' alone knows about the kind of bunglings made. As regards myself, despite my prayer to 'Pujari' and Bhajan to 'Prabhu', I failed to find out the names of the persons involved in these bunglings. The C.B.I. is making enquiry into the matter. The outcome would come before us very shortly. In the place where I am sitting now, whichever old file I pick up, it smells of corruption.

SHRI BASUDEV ACHARIA: This has been proved that there has been a loss of Rs. 3 crores and it was a big bungling. Mr. Bhajan Lalji is well aware of the kind of bungling made in it. The private suppliers and manufacturing companies are involved in it. I would like to say that in order to avoid recurrence of such bunglings, Jute bags produced by the National Jute Manufacturing Company and 7-8 other mills of West Bengal should exclusively be used by the National Seeds Corporation for packing their seeds. Will you consider purchasing bags from the aforesaid companies only.

SHRI DEVI LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated that every efforts will be made to purchase jute bags from the companies of West Bengal only because West Bengal is the leading producer of jute and moreover at present. Jute bags are being procured from them. For this purpose jute bags will be used instead of canvass bags so that the farmers are benefited.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that the hon. Minister has said in reply to a supplementary that the present Government is not answerable for the deeds of the previous Government. Is it not the responsibility of the Government to answer the question in full whether it relates to the period of the present Government or the previous Government? The hon. Minister should not shelve the question like this. I would like to submit that the Government should do its duty instead of passing the buck to others. The Government should be asked to clarify the point.

SHRI DEVI LAL: It any specific question is asked, I am prepared to answer it. If you give notice, the reply will be given to you.

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARDHANAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the certified wheat seeds, the National Seeds Corporation select only selected seeds which will cost more. The Minister has given reply in part (c) that there is poor offtake of NSC certified wheat seeds at the prevailing market rate. The certified seeds naturally cost more because they are selected seeds.

But in answer to part (d), the Minister has stated that it has been allowed 50,000 quintals to be exported to Afghanistan. I would like to know whether that price is more than the prevailing market price in India or whether it is incurring a loss for the NSC?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVI LAL: The proposed export of fifty thousand quintals would be made at the price prevailing at that time. As far as use of bags is concerned, we are using both kinds of bags..... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARDHANAN: I want a categorical answer from the Minister whether it is more than the Indian

prevailing market price then.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVI LAL: If you give a separate notice for it, I shall enquire and let you know. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARDHANAN: I am asking the question arising from your answer.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU: I would like to all the attention of the hon. Minister regarding the misuse of funds of the cooperative marketing society in Amreli by the hon. Minister, Mr. Manubhai Kotadia. This is regarding agriculture cooperative society.

MR. SPEAKER: This has nothing to do with jute and all this.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU: This is regarding selling gunny bags. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Order please.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ERA ANBARASU: I do not make any allegation. I am only asking the adventure of the hon. Minister about the article that has been published in the *Illustrated Weekly*.

MR. SPEAKER: No. You give a separate question. Will you please take your seat?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is Question Hour.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU: What is the reaction of the hon. Agriculture Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

Record of Numbers Called through STD in Telephone Bills

*518. SHRI ERA ANBARASU:
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modify telephone billing system under which all telephone numbers called through STD are automatically recorded and also communicated in subscribers telephone bills;

(b) whether such a system exists in several foreign countries; and

(c) the time by which the modified billing system will be introduced in India?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) Subscribers connected to E-10B type electronic exchanges everywhere are being provided telephone bills with details of STD calls beginning with December 1989.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This facility is already available in the E 10B type of exchanges. Presently, it is not technically feasible to provide this facility in other types of exchanges.

SHRI ERA ANBARASU: Sir, I would like to know how many E-10B type electronic exchanges are there in India and in Central Madras, in particular, whether all the Exchanges will be covered by these types of electronic Exchanges, what time it will take to provide similar Exchanges throughout the country.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN: At the moment, we have about 57 E 10B Exchanges. I cannot tell you about the position of Madras without notice. I should certainly inform the House. It entirely depends on the