

(b) how this is to be achieved in Orissa when the State is in the grip of drought again?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) The food production target fixed for 1980-81 by the Planning Commission for Orissa is 6.63 million tonnes against the country's target of 125 million tonnes.

(b) Meteorological reports indicate that rainfall has been widespread during June 1980 all over Orissa favouring agricultural operations. Taking advantage of this situation, the food-grains production target for Orissa is proposed to be achieved by the State by:—

(i) Raising the area under High-Yielding Varieties from 10.0 lakh hectares in 1979-80 to 16.5 lakh hectares during 1980-81.

(ii) Coordinated efforts for full utilisation of irrigation facilities, increased use of fertilisers, adequate supply of inputs and strengthening of extension education.

(iii) Implementing a community nursery programme of rise over 2200 hectares at a cost of Rs. 22 lakhs.

(iv) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on intensive programme for development of pulses is in operation in two districts. The scheme aims at demonstrations on farmer's fields; provision of training for farmers and extension workers; production of Rhizobium culture; strengthening of the seed production arrangements;

and expansion of plant protection measures.

**Extension of period for Sugar Co-operative Factory, Visakhapatnam**

\*526. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received an application to extend the period of construction of Cooperative Sugar factory at Kothakota in Visakhapatnam District in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the Government are considering extending any financial assistance to the said sugar factory in view of the sugar shortage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The validity period of the licence has been extended upto 30-6-1981.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**News item "Chaos in Telegraph offices"**

\*527. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the *Indian Express* dated 18th June, 1980 regarding chaos in Telegraph Offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have made any enquiry into the allegations?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is placed on the table of the House.

## Statement

Result of preliminary inquiry (in brief) conducted by the Department on the News Item that appeared in 'The Indian Express' at New Delhi on 18th June, 1980.

According to this News Item

Result of preliminary inquiry  
(in brief) by Department

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(i) Telegraph Offices in Madras City and elsewhere are posting thousands of telegrams especially from beginning of May and a separate section for posting telegrams opened in Madras C.T.O.

(1) During the months of May and June, 1980 5.6% and 4% respectively of telegrams received in Madras CTO were posted.

No separate section for posting telegrams has been opened in Madras-CTO. However additional staff is drafted for completing the work associated with postings of telegrams whenever required.

(ii) Posting being resorted to if the circuit or telegraphists are not available. Posting depends on availability of connecting flight.

(ii) The question of posting is decided after a review every day depending on accumulation of traffic and availability of circuits. Posting, if necessary does depend on availability of connecting flight and delays casual could be of the order mentioned in the news item.

(iii) Chronic delays to telegrams are being experienced on circuits from Madras to Lucknow, Jullundur, Patna, Calcutta and Old Delhi and power failures add to delays.

(iii) & (iv)—Delays have been caused to telegrams on circuit from Madras to Lucknow, Jullundur, Patna, Calcutta and Old-Delhi. These have been largely due to shortage of staff and to a certain extent non-availability of circuits. The average shortage of staff in the cadre of telegraphists was around 33% in the months of May and June 1980. The availability of the circuits in May and June, 1980 especially to Lucknow and Patna remained low owing to operational delays caused by neglect at the terminals and intermediate station. Circuits from Madras to Lucknow, Jullundur, Patna and Calcutta are built up via major carrier centres.

(iv) Chronic staff shortage coupled with frequent circuit failure aggravate the situation particularly at the time of marriage greeting telegrams. About 11,000 wedding greetings telegrams received by Madras CTO every day.

Steps have been initiated to provide standby engine generators at all Central Telegraph Offices and Departmental Telegraph Offices. Standby generators, however, exist at Madras, Lucknow, Jullundur, Patna and Calcutta.

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During May and June, 1980, a total of 7738 greetings telegrams were received in Madras Central Telegraph Office for delivery after decoding.

(v) Money for posted telegrams should be refunded. Though provision exists for refund, Only companies and institutions avail of it and common man is not at all aware of such a provision.

(v) Express or ordinary telegrams booked and delivered in India and delayed by more than 24 hours in the case of express telegrams and more than 48 hours in the case of ordinary telegrams, reckoned from the time of booking till the time of receipt at the office of destination, are entitled to a refund provided such telegrams are either at the office of origin or at any other intermediate station sent by post for part or whole on their journey, the amount of refund being 50 Paise less than the cost of the telegram. The refund is admissible if the sender of the telegram is not informed about likelihood of delay at the time of booking.

All Heads of Telecommunication Circles/Districts have been directed to follow provisions of this rule and grant refund wherever it is due. All efforts will be made to ensure expenditure transmission and delivery of telegrams and grant refund wherever being due.

उत्प्रे सन्धो अंतर्को गगल 1976-77 का कार्य

528. श्री दिलीप सिंह भूरिया : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या वर्ष 1976-77 के लिए कृषि सम्बन्धी आंकड़ों की गणना का कार्य इस बीच पूरा हो गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या कोई प्रतिवेदन प्रकाशित किया गया है ;

(ग) क्या इस प्रकार की आगामी गणना वर्ष 1980 में करने का विचार है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में क्या प्रारम्भिक कार्य किया गया है ?

कृषि तथा प्राचीन पुनर्निर्माण मंत्री (श्री वीरेन्द्र सिंह राव) : (क) कार्य का अधिकांश भाग पूरा हो गया है।

(ख) कई राज्यों के बारे में कुछ प्राथमिक रिपोर्टें प्रकाशित की गई हैं। कुछ तैयार हो रही हैं।

(ग) इस प्रस्ताव पर भारत सरकार विचार कर रही है।

(घ) अभी कार्य शुरू होता है।

#### News Item Captioned "Pollutants Playing Havoc with Taj"

\*529. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the *Times of India*, New Delhi dated the 18th June, 1980 captioned 'Pollutants playing havoc with Taj';

(b) if so, the full facts thereof; and