(ख) विभाग के सामने टेलीफोन सेवाओं के विस्तार में जिस में देहाती क्षेत्रों में सेवाओं का विस्तार भी शामिल है, मुख्य समस्या रुपये और सामान दोनों की कमी की है। विभाग उपलब्ध साधनों से इन सेवाओं के विस्तार के लिये हर सम्भव प्रयत्न कर रह। है। फिर भी देहाती क्षेत्रों में दूर-संचार सेवाओं के विस्तार की दृष्टि से सरकार ने घाटे के बावजूद मार्वजनिक टेलीफोन घरों की व्यवस्था करने की नीति अख्तियार की है।

STRIKE BY P & T LINES STAFF IN U.P.

•775. SHRI J. MOHAMED IMAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICA-TIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the decision of the Lines Staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in Uttar Pradesh to go on an indefinite strike from the 1st March, 1968;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to settle the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICA-TIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) No Sir, actually, there was no such strike on 1st March, 1968.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

BLACK-LISTING OF FIRMS

•776. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRI-CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is the duty of the Vigilance Officers attached to the various Departments to place the facts in regard to black listing of firms before Secretaries and the Ministers;

(b) if so, what was the reason for the Vigilance Officer's (Food Department) not placing the fact of the black-listing of the An:inchand Pyaretal Group of firms in 1962, 63 before the Director-General and other higher authorities;

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government so far against the Vigilance Officer for not doing this; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICUL-TURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOP-MENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (3) No. Sir. (b) to (c). These questions do not arise.

SUGAR PRODUCTION

•777. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar output during the current season is likely to be less than the normal consumption in the country; and

(b) if so, how the balance will be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICUL-TURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOP-MENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). The sugar output during the current season 1967-68 is likely to be around 22 lakh tonnes which though less than the normal consumption in the country will be sufficient to cover the releases for the remaining months at the current rates.

FOOD AND PICKLE UNITS IN BIHAR

4576. SHRI B. K. DASCHOW-DHURY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2161 on the 29th February, 1968 and state:

(a) the names and places of Food and Pickle Units in Bihar showing the names and addresses and value of sales of each unit during the years 1965, 1966 and 1967; and