

LATE DELIVERY OF TELEGRAMS

*354. **SHRI SITARAM KESRI** : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been a large number of complaints about the late delivery and non-delivery of telegrams during the last two years; and

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been held to find out the causes of the delay and to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) :

(a) No, Sir. The figures regarding percentage of complaints received to the total traffic handled for the last three years are given below :

	Delay in delivery	Non-delivery
1965	.034	.037
1966	.031	.031
1967	.029*	.037*

(*based on the figures upto 30-9-67).

(b) Causes for the delay in transmission of telegrams are constantly under study and various steps have been taken to remedy the situation. Apart from natural causes, copper wire thefts are also of the major causes of interruptions to telegraph circuits. Action is being taken to replace copper wire by copper weld wire in areas where the thefts are very frequent. Steps are also being taken to reduce the delays in handling telegrams at various stages.

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION

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

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the continued losses being incurred by the Warehousing Corporation, its closure

is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The question whether, in the light of their working so far, the Central Warehousing Corporation should continue as at present or whether their functions, in full or part, should be transferred to any other organisation is still under the consideration of the Government and a decision is likely to be taken in the near future.

STABILISATION OF PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

*356. **SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA** : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any policy for stabilizing the prices of agricultural commodities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) Policy for stabilizing the prices of agricultural commodities includes several measures such as fixation of minimum support and procurement prices, regulation of import and export trade, procurement and distribution, buffer stocks operations, regulation of movement and stocking, credit control, and regulation of forward trading.

INTERNAL COMMUNICATION SATELLITE

*357. **SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATAGI** : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up an internal communication satellite over Central India to provide space-