

age, radio, telephone and television communications between major cities;

(b) whether this will bring all major cities in India into universal trunk dialling system; and

(c) what will be the financial implication for India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) :
(a) No. There is, however, a proposal under consideration of UNESCO to have an Internal Communication Satellite system for Educational Television programmes. Should any spare capacity be left in this system, there will be no objection to utilising the same for providing internal trunk telephone circuits.

(b) The satellite system proposed by UNESCO might help in providing some circuits required for National Trunk Subscriber Dialling Service. It is, however, not likely to have any significant impact on the universal trunk dialling system.

(c) These details are not known.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES COMMISSION ON RABI CROP

*358. **SHRI D. N. PATODIA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Agricultural Prices Commission has worked out the prices for the rabi crop;

(b) whether this has been considered by Government; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission on minimum support prices of Rabi crop for

1968-69 marketing season were received and accepted by the Government. The recommendations of the Commission on the procurement prices for the next season are expected by early March. Decision will be taken by the Government on receipt of the recommendations.

IMPORT OF MILO

*359. **SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to buy 1,72,000 tonnes of milo on rupee payment basis during the next three months;

(b) whether such imports are in tune with the official estimates that 95 million tonnes of foodgrains would be produced this year; and

(c) if so, the reasons for such huge purchases in the context of efforts being made for achieving self-sufficiency in foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The supplies of milo from the U.S.A. are currently coming under the supplementary Agreement dated the 30th December, 1967 to the PL. 480 Agreement of the 20th February, 1967. This supplementary Agreement provides for the supply of 30 lakh metric tons of wheat and 5 lakh metric tons of milo, for the shipment by the end of June, 1968. Under this Agreement the United States Department of Agriculture have so far issued purchase authorisations for a total quantity of 4.82 lakh metric tons of milo including a Purchase Authorisation for 172,000 metric tons issued on the 5th February, 1968. Out of the total 4.82 lakh metric tons, about 3.82 lakh metric tons of milo has already been purchased. The cost of the milo is payable in rupees.

(b) and (c) The target of import of all foodgrains for 1968, is 7.5 million metric tons. This target has been fixed