

power to fix the dates is vested in the Election Commission, Government cannot interfere with the functions of the Election Commission.

**Non-availability of stamps of lower Denomination**

\*114. SHRI HEM RAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at various places in the country, complaints have been made against the non-availability of stamps of the lower denomination generally; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Adequate stocks of stamps have since been printed and supplied to treasuries all over the country. The position is now generally satisfactory.

**Procurement and Storage of Food-grains**

\*115. SHRI BABURAO PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the arrangements Government have made to collect and store the bumper wheat crop of Punjab and Haryana;

(b) whether it is a fact that hundreds of loaded wagons of foodgrains were lying in the railway yard at Kandivali and Surat on the Western Railway during May/June, 1968 for want of godowns to store the food-grains;

(c) whether Government would withdraw all restrictions on the movement of wheat, as it is not possible to construct godowns of approved type in the near future; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a)

The procurement of wheat in Punjab is being done by the State Government, Marketing Federation of Punjab and the Food Corporation of India; in Haryana, it is being done by the State Government. Movement of the procured grain outside these States has in both cases been undertaken by the Food Corporation. In Punjab alone, the total procurement till the 17th of July was 12.1 lakh tonnes as against the total market arrivals of 13.9 lakh tonnes. In Haryana, the total procurement was 2.03 lakh tonnes. Of the total grain procured in both the States, over 6 lakh tonnes has been stored in the godowns in these States and the balance has been moved out of the States to other parts of the country either for direct consumption or for holding as reserve in the storage godowns in the other States.

(b) It is not a fact that because of want of godowns wagons were lying at the railway yard in Kandivali. There was a temporary accumulation of wagons at Kandivali because of sudden bunching of wagons and shortage of labour. At Surat, the accumulation was caused by wagons in transit to other points in Maharashtra.

(c) and (d). In view of the replies above, these questions do not arise. The storage accommodation with the Government and in the public sector is adequate at present and local deficiencies in some of the States are being made up by construction of additional storage godowns of the approved type.

**Committee on Cow Protection**

\*116. SHRI BHARAT SINGH CHAUHAN:  
SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA:  
DR. SURYA PRAKASH PURI:  
SHRI RAMAVATAR SHARMA: