

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone facilities have considerably expanded during the last three years, but the demand for telephones in major cities is considerably in excess of facilities available; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to satisfy the demand thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA).

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A further substantial expansion of the telephone services is being planned during the IV Plan period within the over all limitations of plan resources. The planned expansion would however not be able to meet all the demands.

#### External Services of A.I.R.

\*1303. SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to strengthen the external services of A.I.R. during the Fourth Plan; and

(b) the steps taken in this regard with the allocation made for the purpose?

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

(b) Work on establishment of two super power medium-wave transmitters—one near Calcutta and the other near Rajkot and two high power short-wave transmitters at Aligarh is in progress. Total estimated cost of these projects is about Rs. 808 lakhs. In addition, provision of Rs. 500 lakhs has been proposed in the Fourth Five Year Plan for setting up two more high power short-wave transmitters and for provision of additional studio facilities.

#### Newsprint Quota for Convicted Newspapers

\*1304. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Integration Council has recommended that a newspaper should not be given its newsprint quota on conviction of an offence under Section 153-A, I.P.C.; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government to the same in view of the fact that the said recommendation if put into effect will contravene the provisions of Article 19(g) which guarantees freedom to trade but also of Article 20(2) which forbids a person being punished more than once for the same offence?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The legal implications of the recommendation are being examined in consultations with the Ministry of Law.

#### Filmson National Integration

\*1305. SHRI VALMIKI CHOUDHARY : SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in pursuance of the recommendation of the National Integration Council made at its Srinagar meeting last year, a panel was appointed on films and entertainment media by the Committee of Expert on Mass-Media;

(b) if so, whether the panel has made, amongst others a suggestion to set up a special fund for films to provide incentive for production of feature films to promote national integration; and

(c) if so, the decision on this and other suggestions of the panel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The matter is under consideration by the National Integration Council.

#### Unemployment in the Country

\*1306. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated number of unemployed persons in urban and rural areas, separately, at the end of 1950-51, 1955-56, 1960-61, 1965-66 and 1968-69 ;

(b) the employment target of the Fourth Five Year Plan for urban and rural areas separately ; and

(c) the estimated number of unemployed persons at the end of Fourth Five Year Plan Period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) to (c). Reliable estimates are not available. The Planning Commission have set up a Committee of Experts on Unemployment Estimates in August 1968 to examine and make suitable recommendations on various aspects of unemployment and under-employment in the country including the methodology of estimating the labour force, employment and unemployment. The work of the Committee is in progress.

#### Increase in prices of wheat and wheat products

\*1307. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have increased the prices of wheat and wheat products from March, 1969;

(b) if so, the amount of rise in prices;

(c) whether this is the sixth time during the past four years that Government have increased wheat prices; and

(d) the reasons for increasing the prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CO-OPERATION ( SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE ) : (a) No, Sir. It has, however, been decided to revise the issue prices of wheat and wheat products with effect from 4th May, 1969.

(b) The revised issue price of wheat is Rs. 78.00 per quintal for all varieties as against the existing issue prices of red wheat at Rs. 70.00, white wheat at Rs. 85.00 and superior wheat at Rs. 95.00 per quintal. The issue prices of wheat products would have to be correspondingly revised.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Mainly to reduce gradually the burden of subsidy on the National Exchequer which was involved in the subsidised distribution of wheat from the Central stocks. It would also narrow down the gap between the open market prices of wheat and the sale price of wheat at fair price shops.

#### Integrated Agricultural Policies of Centre and States

\*1308. SHRI D. C. SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the desirability of integrating agricultural policies of both the Centre and the State Government in the field of agricultural education extension and research has been examined;