

Charges Against Director, Song and Drama Division

*412. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether enquiries into the allegations against the Director of Song and Drama Division have since been completed ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any action is proposed to be taken against the Director ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING ; AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d). Enquiries have been made. As a first step, an order has been issued that rehearsals should normally be held during office hours only, and in any case, not after 6.00 P.M. The participation of guest artistes in any capacity in rehearsals/performances without the prior permission of this Ministry has been forbidden. Certain staff transfers have also been ordered.

Award of Arbitrator on the Report of the Wage Board on Non-working Journalists

*413. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Arbitrator has given an award on the Report of the Wage Board on Non-working Journalists ; and

(b) if not, the reasons for this delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) The dispute relating to the implementation of the recommendations of the Wage Board for Non-journalists in certain newspaper establishments was referred to the National Tribunal, Calcutta for adjudication. No arbitrator was appointed.

(b) The Tribunal is proceeding with its

work expeditiously. Considering the nature and scope of the reference, there is no delay.

Supply of Foodgrains to Government Employees at Subsidised Rates

*414. SHRI M. L. SONDHI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India is empowered to supply foodgrains to the Central Government employees at subsidised rates ;

(b) whether the Central Government employees have demanded protection against rise in foodgrain prices ; and

(c) if so, the reasons why the Food Corporation of India has not come to the help of the Central Government employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir. The Food Corporation of India has to supply the grain at the issue prices fixed by Government of India.

(b) Though representations have been received by Government for protection from the general rise in prices, there have been no specific representations for protection against the rise in foodgrains prices alone.

(c) Does not arise.

Communications Facilities in Border Areas of Northern Region

*415. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by Government to increase communications facilities in the border areas of the Northern region ; and

(b) the similar steps taken to increase the facilities in the tribal areas ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING ; AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on Table of the Sabha, [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1563/69].