

of Kerala and one representative of the Malayala Chalachithra Parishad should be appointed to the Council.

(c) The request of the Parishad will be taken into consideration while finalising the composition of the Film Council.

Review of Indian Telegraph act 1 85 and Indian Post Office act 1898 by Press Council

*632. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Press Council has reviewed Sections 5 and 29 of the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 and corresponding provision of Indian Post Office Act, 1898 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether Government had received that report from the Council and if so, the action taken thereon ?

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

(b) Brief details of the recommendations of the Press Council are given in the attached statement. They have suggested amendment of Sections 5 and 29 of the Indian Telegraph Act and Section 26 of the Indian Post Office Act.

(c) A copy of the resolution passed by the Press Council of India was received by Government and the recommendations are under examination. So far as Section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 is concerned, as recommended by the Law Commission, a Bill to amend that Section was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 22nd May, 1970 and has been passed on 25.8.70. The amendment of section 29 of the Telegraph Act is being processed.

As regards Section 26 of the Indian Post Office Act, this is being examined along with the report of the Law Commission which has since been received.

Statement

Brief details of the recommendations of the Press Council regarding the Telegraph and Post Office Acts.

It is realised that power must be reserved

to the Government to order interception of telegraphic messages in the vital interest of the State or to prevent violence or breaches of the law.

2. The Central and State Government should continue to have the power of telegraphic interception for use on special occasions of the occurrence of a public emergency or in the interests of the public safety provided the order of the Minister in charge are obtained.

3. The emergence of the conditions enabling action to be taken under Section—5 of the Telegraph Act should be a formal notification of the Central or the State Government.

4. Telegraph Department should submit to the District Magistrate telegrams the despatch of which, in the opinion of the Principal Officer of the office is likely to prejudicially affect public order or safety.

5. Section—5 of the Indian Telegraph Act is violative of Art. 19(1) of the Constitution.

6. The Telegraph Department should be required to maintain a special register showing the list of telegrams referred to the District Magistrate under Section—5 setting out the name of the sender and of the addressee, the time at which the telegram was received for transmission etc.

7. The offence under Section 29 of the Indian Telegraph Act should be rendered non-cognizable so that the police are not in a position to arrest the sender of the false telegram without a warrant from a Magistrate.

8. With regard to Section 26 of the Indian Post Office Act the Press Council have only invited attention to their remarks and recommendations in regard to Section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act, which would apply in this case also, though the impact of Section 26 of the Post Office Act on the Press, as compared to Section 5 of the Telegraph Act is much less.

Review of Policy Regarding Prices and Procurement of Foodgrains

*636. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to review the policy relating to

the prices and procurement of foodgrains ; 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). Government review the prices and procurement policies of foodgrains before each harvesting season. A review will be made towards the end of September 1970 before the new kharif season begins.

Criticism of Indian Council of Agricultural Research by Agricultural Scientists

*642. SHRI MAYAVAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Agricultural Scientists have criticised the functioning of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and asked the Government to examine its working ;

(b) if so, the reactions of Government thereto ;

(c) the defects pointed out by them and

(d) how far they have been examined ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) A section of scientists working in the Indian Agricultural Research Institute recently held a meeting in the Auditorium of the Institute under the aegis of the Scientific Workers' Association of India and discussed certain alleged grievances concerning the working of the Council and the Institute which were, however, not officially communicated either to the Council or to the Government. The matter was reported in the Press only and the Council obtained a report from the Director, I.A.R.I., which confirmed the fact that such a meeting had been held.

(b) The Government has all along been anxious to remove the genuine grievances of the Agricultural Scientists and many of the handicaps from which they have been suffering.

(c) and (d). Various steps have already been taken in this direction. A statement enumerating some of the steps taken by the Government is annexed. The allegation made by a section of the Scientists present in the meeting revolves round three main items :

(i) lack of incentives to scientists after the reorganisation of the Council.

(ii) plagiarism in scientific literature ; and

(iii) lack of uniformity in recruitment procedure.

As mentioned earlier, the Government has been aware of the difficulties and handicaps which the Agricultural Scientists had been facing in the past. With the Reorganisation of the Council various steps have already been taken to ameliorate the working conditions of Agricultural Scientists. Some of the steps taken in this direction are enumerated in the Statement annexed. It may also be mentioned that this is a continuing process and many more steps are envisaged to be taken in the near future to further improve the working conditions of the scientists and to attract many of our capable scientists working in different laboratories abroad.

ANNEXURE

Steps Taken by the Government of India and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in Order to Remove Various Causes of Frustration Among the Agricultural Scientists During the Last Five Years.

1. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research was reorganised in the year 1966 and the Governing Body of the Council was reconstituted making it thereby predominantly a Body of Scientists, and those with interests in or knowledge of Agriculture. A career Scientist was appointed as the first Director-General and Vice President of the reorganised Council.

2. The pay scales of Agricultural Scientists compared unfavourably with the pay scales prevailing in many other Scientific Organisations like the C.S.I.R. and the Atomic Energy Commission. In spite of the general ban which existed against the upward revision of pay scales, with the special approval of the Cabinet and the Finance Ministry the pay scales of Agricultural Scientists have been revised at various levels.