

paddy is being procured. Rice is being procured through levy in Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

PROCUREMENT OF PADDY

2933. SHRI K. M. KOUSSHIK : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to direct the Maharashtra Government to procure rice instead of paddy, as it is advantageous to farmers who get the residue of 'Kani' and 'Konda' thereby; and

b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The methods of procurement have been left to each State Government to decide keeping in view the local conditions. Moreover in Maharashtra, the cultivator has the option of giving rice in lieu of paddy.

VILLAGE TELEPHONE INSTALLATION SCHEME

2934. SHRI V. NARASIMHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to implement the "village telephone installation scheme" in India; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) No.

(b) Owing to limitation of resources and the large number of rural stations to be catered or, is possible to expand the Tele-communication facilities only gradually. Normally, the Telephone facilities are provided only if the schemes are remunerative. However, in order to extend the Telephone facility to undeveloped areas, certain cate-

gories of stations are provided with this facility even on loss subject to an overall limit of loss not exceeding Rs. 40 lakhs for a period of five years beginning from 1st April, 1966 *i.e.*, after the end of the Third Five-Year Plan Period. The categories of stations referred to above are as follows :

- (i) Remaining District and Sub-Divisional Headquarter Towns.
- (ii) Tehsil and corresponding Headquarter Towns.
- (iii) Sub-Tehsils.
- (iv) Places with a population of 20,000 or more and at places in Urban areas with a population of 10,000 or more.
- (v) 100 places in remote localities *i.e.* places beyond 40 Kms. from the nearest Telephone Exchange.
- (vi) About 100 Public Call Offices to be opened at Tourist Centres, Pilgrim Centres, Agriculture and Irrigation Project sites and Townships.

Stations of lower categories *i.e.* Block Headquarters, Police Stations under the charge of a Sub-Inspector, places with a population of over 5,000 etc. are initially provided with only Telegraph facility on loss basis and this helps to develop them progressively to Telephone stations depending upon the growth of Telegraph Traffic.

CATTLE WEALTH

2935. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate number of cattle of various kinds found and bred in the country, State-wise;

(b) the approximate number out of them that die annually through famine, drought or starvation;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that a number of calves, both male and female, of both cattle and buffaloes are wilfully destroyed by starvation every year by those who deal in milk business; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?