

Bokaro Telephone exchange;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Complaint from All India Employees Union Class-III, Patna, against Shri S.S. Yadav, TDE, Dhanbad, regarding his alleged irregularities.

(ii) Complaint against Shri H.,G. Sharma, SDO, Bokaro Steel City, regarding his alleged atrocities.

(iii) Complaint made by Bokaro Chamber of Commerce and Industries, with Newspaper clippings, forwarded by Shri Ram Tahal Choudhary, M.P., Shri George Fernandes, M.P. and Shri Karia Munda, M.P. regarding alleged excess recovery of Rs.5 crores and misappropriation of Rs. 7.25 lakhs towards telephone bills in Bokaro.

(c) the cases are under investigation.

Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables

1793. SHRI SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI LAL BABU RAI:
SHRI RAM TAHAL
CHOUDHARY:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and rupee value of fruits and vegetables produced in the

country last year;

(b) the comparative figures of percentage of processed fruits and vegetables with respect to neighbouring countries;

(c) the steps being taken to reduce losses due to non-availability of appropriate post harvest infrastructure; and

(d) the targets fixed and schemes being implemented in the Eighth Plan to reduce wastes due to improper storage and processing facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a). Quantum and value of the production of fruits and vegetables during 1992-93 are not available. The quantity and value of fruits and vegetables produced in the country during 1991-92 is estimated at 98.07 million tonnes and Rs.18057 crores.

(b) Total production of fruit and vegetable products in India during 1992 had been 4,69,000 metric tonnes. The figures for neighbouring countries are not available.

(c) and (d). The Government is assisting and encouraging setting up of various post-harvest processing and handling facilities such as assistance to Government/Cooperative/Voluntary agencies for setting up new units or expansion of existing units, subsidy for backward linkage by the Industry for contract farming, promotion of generic demand for processed fruits, establishing of food processing/training centres in rural areas are other measures to optimise conservation of available fruits and vegetables in the country. Besides this, the National Horticulture Board has taken up a massive programme for establishing grading/packing centres, pre-cooling units, waxing units

and also cold chain including refrigerated transport and cold storages. While no targets have been fixed for the Eighth Five Year Plan to reduce losses, it is estimated that augmentation of the installed capacity of fruit and vegetable processing units will increase from 9.5 lakh tonnes, as in the beginning of the Plan, to 20 lakh tonnes at the terminal year of the Eighth Plan and other measures initiated by the Government will reduce the losses substantially.

Talks on Troop Reduction with China

1794. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:
SHRI ANAND RATAN
MAURYA:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
SHRI ARJUN CHARAN
SETHI:
SHRI CHETAN P.S.
CHAUHAN:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China have started talks on reducing troop levels on both sides of the line of actual control in pursuance of an agreement signed during the Prime Minister's visit to Beijing during September, 1993;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that both sides have so far reduced some troops on the borders;

(c) if so, the total number of troops

withdrawn by both the countries;

(d) the time by which further talks between the two countries are likely to be held; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Government to reduce tension on the border with China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) In pursuance of the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas signed during the Prime Minister's visit to China in September, 1993, an India-China Expert Group was formed in December 1993 to assist the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) in its task of implementation of the Agreement. The Expert Group held its first meeting in New Delhi from February 2-4, 1994. At this meeting, basic agreement was reached on issues related to the mandate, future tasks and methodology of the Expert Group. The tasks of the Expert Group, including the question of troop reduction and other confidence building measures will be taken up in subsequent meetings.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The next meeting of the Expert Group will be held in Beijing in a few months.

(e) The Joint Working Groups is to discuss further measures including implementation of the provisions of the Agreement, which are expected to ensure peace and tranquillity in the India-China border area.