

(ग) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार का विचार इस मामले की जांच कराने का है अथवा उसने कोई जांच कराई है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

साख, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मन्त्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री अन्ना-साहिब शिन्डे) : (क) और (ख). जानकारी इकट्ठी की जा रही है और मिलते ही समा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

(ग) और (घ). इस समय प्रश्न ही नहीं होते।

Purchase of Rice by Food Corporation of India

10270. SHRI LAKHAN LAL GUPTA :

SHRI D. N. PATODIA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the officers of the Food Corporation of India in Raipur (M. P.) are purchasing Safri rice, known as M1, being grown in Chhattisgarh at the same rate as Dubraj rice (C. F. 3);

(b) if so, whether the officials of the Corporation and local traders are making undue profit as a result thereof and causing loss to both Central and State Governments to whom this rice is supplied in place of fine rice?

(c) if so, the complete details thereof and the action taken by Government against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) It is not a fact that Food Corporation of India is purchasing Safri rice at the same rate as Dubraj rice. Safri rice is classified as medium I whereas Dubraj rice is classified as Fine II. The two varieties have distinctive features in regard to their dimensions, cooking qualities, etc. Moreover, Dubraj variety has a distinctive scent which is not present in other qualities. There is therefore, no

scope for Safri rice being purchased as Dubraj rice even by mistake.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Labour Ministers' Conference

10271. SHRI ANBUCHZHIAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Conference of Labour Ministers of States was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the Union Labour Minister has urged the transfer of full powers to the Central Government to handle Labour relations; and

(c) the other subjects discussed and decisions taken at the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI) : (a) Yes. The 19th Session of the Labour Ministers Conference was held at New Delhi on 19th April, 1968.

(b) and (c). A copy of the Statement of the Main Conclusions of the Conference is placed on the Table of the House. [*Plac'd in Library. See No. LT - 1265/68*]

Dr. Sirohi of Indian Agricultural Research Institute

10272. SHRI SURENDAR REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Sirohi of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi is the first Indian National who has been to South Pole, where he carried out scientific experiments of immense importance;

(b) whether it is a fact that the U. S. Board on Geographical Names gave a high recognition to Dr. Sirohi's outstanding scientific work and in his honour named a place near South pole as Sirohi Point;

(c) whether any honour has been conferred upon Dr. Sirohi by Government as a result of recognition of his work; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Dr. Sirohi is the first Indian Scientist to visit the South Pole as a member of a Scientific Team from the University of California at Los Angeles during 1960-61. He was at that time working as a Research Scientist in that University. The object of this expedition was to ascertain whether any factor associated with the earth's rotation regulated the biological clock of plants and animals. The U. S. Board of Geographic Names have named one place in the South Pole as 'Sirohi Point' in recognition of his work as the member of the expedition.

(c) and (d). Dr. G. S. Sirohi was appointed at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in 1963, in the scale of Rs. 700-50-1250. Thereafter, he has been offered the post of senior Plant Physiologist in the pay scale of Rs. 1100-50-1400. While making these selections the Selection Committees had, no doubt, taken into consideration, all his achievements in the field of Agricultural science.

Voters for Presidential Elections

10273. SHRI M. MEGHACHANDRA: Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have examined the points raised in the judgement and order given by the Court of Judicial Commissioner, Manipur in the Election Writ case filed by 15 inhabitants of Manipur and the Judgement announced on the 5th April, 1968 ;

(b) if so, whether the Election Commission has to enrol as votes the members of the Legislatures in the Union Territories in the Election of the President of India ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI M. YUNUS SALEEM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Election Commission considers that the order given by the Judicial Commissioner, Manipur has no bearing with the constitution of electoral college contemplated under article 54 of the Constitution.

Teleprinter service between Delhi-Agartala and Calcutta-Agartala

10274. SHRI KIRIT BIKRAM DEB BURMAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) on how many occasions and for how long the Teleprinter service between Delhi-Agartala and Calcutta-Agartala were interrupted or cut during 1967 and in 1968 so far ;

(b) the reasons for such frequent failures of this link ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the Teleprinter service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) There is no direct teleprinter circuit between Delhi and Agartala but the telegrams are generally routed *via* Calcutta. The number of occasions and the period of interruption for the telegraph service between Calcutta and Agartala during 1967 and in 1968 till 30.4.68 are as follows :—

Year	No. of occasions of service interrupted.	Period of interruption.
1967	41	194 hrs.
1968 (till 30.4.68)	14	62 „

(b) Interruptions to telegraph service are due to—

- (1) unstable power supply at Agartala ;
- (2) adverse weather conditions affecting wireless working.

(c) As a short-term measure for improving service, stand-by power plants have been ordered to be installed at Agartala. As a long-term measure, microwave links have been planned for connecting Agartala to Calcutta for telecommunication purposes

Plywood Factory in Tripura

10275. SHRI KIRIT BIKRAM DEB BURMAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether, in connection with the proposal to set up a plywood factory in