

stage when the poorest of the cultivators had already come into the market, could I know whether the Government propose to come forward with a jute purchase policy well in advance before the jute comes into the market?

Shri A. P. Jain: We have taken a decision for the present year and we have stated what that decision is

Mr. Speaker: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Construction of Bridges on Hingoli-Khandwa Line

*63. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the number of major bridges that have yet to be constructed on the Hingoli-Khandwa rail link,

(b) whether the required girders have since been received, and

(c) when the construction of all the major bridges is likely to be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) Thirty four

(b) 103 girders have been received and 66 are still due.

(c) By October, 1960

Institute for Afforestation

*65. **Shrimati Ila Palchondhuri:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for establishing an Institute for Afforestation of arid and semi-arid zones in India is under the consideration of the Government of India, and

(b) if so, the progress made in finalising it?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). On the advice of an expert from the UNESCO, a scheme has been prepared for expanding the scope of the existing Central Desert Afforestation Research Station at Jodhpur into a Central Arid Zone Research Institute, in collaboration with the UNESCO's major project on the subject and with technical and financial assistance from that Organisation. The financial and organizational details are still under consideration.

Automatic Telephone Exchanges

*66. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Tangamani:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state.

(a) whether some more Automatic Telephone Exchanges are likely to be established during 1959-60;

(b) if so, in which cities;

(c) the expenditure involved, and

(d) cities where this work has already been taken up?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) Yes

(b) to (d) Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha

Statement

(b) and (c) New Automatic Exchanges likely to be brought into service in 1959-60 with cost particulars

Sl No.	Name of Exchange	City	Total estimated cost Rs.
1	Coimbatore	Coimbatore	34,89,700
2	Jullundur	Jullundur	20,82,000
3	Jaipur	Jaipur	40,08,000
4	Agra	Agra	41,97,000
5	Asansol	Asansol	16,38,900
6	Jorbagh	New Delhi	56,63,500

(d) Work has already been taken up at all the places mentioned at part (b) of the answer