

ed surplus at the various stages of the cut-over of the automatic Telephone Exchanges as are willing to accept posts elsewhere in the Department. A Departmental Committee will be appointed for this purpose.

TEA GARDEN WORKERS (RETRENCHMENT)

*1315. **Shri N. B. Chowdhury:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of workers in the tea gardens of West Bengal have been thrown out of employment as a result of the closing down of certain gardens; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to see them employed?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). Precise information about the number of tea gardens which have closed down and the number of workers thrown out unemployed is not available. The Government of West Bengal have been requested to furnish this information as also the steps taken by them to provide alternative employment to the unemployed labour. The Central Government have convened a tripartite conference at Calcutta on the 19th and 20th December 1952, to consider *inter alia* the problem of surplus labour, retrenchment etc. in tea gardens.

FOOD SCARCITY IN SOUTHERN RAJASTHAN

*1316. **Shri Bheekha Bhai:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there has been complete failure of crops in the Southern Rajasthan for the last three years?

(b) If so, how the food scarcity is being removed there?

(c) What grant has been made by the Centre during the last three years?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Kharif crops were damaged to the extent of 8 to 12 annas in the rupee during the last 2 years in the Udaipur Division and in 1951 also in other parts of southern Rajasthan due to deficient rain-fall.

(b) The State Government started relief works, opened fair price grain shops and gave *taccavi* loans.

(c) Nil.

STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY BODIES

788. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer given to

starred question No. 1050 asked on the 15th September 1951 and state:

(a) the names of statutory and non-statutory bodies of permanent nature constituted since then upto date under the administrative control of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture giving the following information in each case—(i) date of the constitution; (ii) the recurring and non-recurring expenditure involved; (iii) provision for the audit of the accounts; (iv) the method of submission of the report of their activities;

(b) the names of such *ad-hoc* committees as were appointed during the same period giving the date of appointment;

(c) the names of such *ad-hoc* committees as have finished their work and have submitted their reports during the period giving the dates of their submission of their reports;

(d) the names of such *ad-hoc* committees as are still functioning and the time by which they are expected to submit their reports; and

(e) the names of such bodies of permanent nature of advisory character that have been dissolved during the period?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (d). Four statements are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 2.]

(e) Nil.

STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY BODIES

789. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to refer to the answer given to starred question No. 1051 asked on the 15th September 1951 and state:

(a) the names of statutory and non-statutory bodies of permanent nature constituted since then up-to-date under the administrative control of the Ministry of Communications giving the following information in each case—(i) date of the constitution, (ii) the recurring and non-recurring expenditure involved, (iii) provision for the audit of the accounts, and (iv) the method of submission of the report of their activities;

(b) the names of such *ad-hoc* committees as were appointed during the same period giving the date of appointment;

(c) the names of such *ad-hoc* committees as have finished their work