

ment the instructions of the Chief Inspector of Mines?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) 288.

(b) and (c). Enquiries were held into all these fatal accidents by the Department of Mines. The safety of all the operations carried on in mines is governed by the Mines Act, and the regulations, rules and bye-laws framed thereunder, which are quite comprehensive. Inspections were made to enforce these provisions and action taken against offenders. In the light of this, no question of lack of implementation of any instruction of the Chief Inspector of Mines arises.

Shri Vittal Rao: May I know the number of cases wherein prosecutions were launched against pit managers for dereliction of duty?

Shri V. V. Giri: There have been many prosecutions

Shri Vittal Rao: May I know in how many cases enquiries were conducted by visiting the actual place of accident underground and the number of cases where enquiry was conducted on the surface with the aid of maps?

Shri V. V. Giri: I would like to have notice.

Shri Raghavaiah: May I know whether these accidents are on the increase or on the decrease?

Shri V. V. Giri: I think, on the decrease.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Question—hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

TIS HAZARI TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

*716. **Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the initial capacity of providing telephone lines, of the new Telephone Exchange, opened in Old Delhi on the 24th January, 1953; and

(b) whether this new Telephone Exchange will fulfil the needs of the people from that area?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 2,900 lines; the capacity will be increased to 4,000 lines by the middle of the current year.

(b) Not fully.

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GORAKHPUR—THUTHIBARI RAILWAY LINE

*728. **Shri H. S. Prasad:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether the Railway Ministry have received a proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the opening of a Railway line from Gorakhpur to Thuthibari via Mahrajanj?

(b) If so, do Government propose to construct the said Railway line?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Not at present

ENFORCEMENT OF PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME

*729. **Shri K. Subrahmanyam:** (a) Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state whether Government consider embroidery mills as part and parcel of the textile industry or not?

(b) Is it a fact that the only two embroidery mills in India are situated in Chheharta in Amritsar District?

(c) Is it a fact that both these mills have not enforced the Provident Fund Scheme despite the repeated demands of the workers?

(d) Is it also a fact that protests by workers to the Labour Commissioner did not also have any effect?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes.

(b) No. In addition to the two embroidery mills situated in Chheharta in Amritsar District, there is also one embroidery mill at Delhi.

(c) No. It has been reported that Provident Fund schemes on the lines of the Employees' Provident Funds Scheme, 1952—but offering more liberal terms to the employees have been introduced in the embroidery mills at Chheharta and collection of provident fund contributions started from November, 1952.

(d) Does not arise.

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS IN CHITTORGARH DISTRICT

*730. **Shri U. M. Trivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state what steps have been taken to extend telegraphic communications in Chittorgarh District?

(b) Is it a fact that for people living in the sub-division of Begun the nearest telegraph office is at a distance of 50 miles?