

(b) It is too early to judge the size of the current year's *khari*f crop as in large areas of south and Peninsular India, late *khari*f crops are sown in September and October and depend for their growth on winter rains.

(c) Does not arise.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT ON KATIHAR-LUCKNOW LINE

*106. **Shri Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether causes of the accident in the head-on-collision between two trains on the night between the 16th and the 17th June, 1953, on the Katihar-Lucknow metre gauge line have been ascertained;

(b) what action has been taken against the persons concerned;

(c) the total number of persons

(i) dead, and

(ii) injured; and

(d) whether any compensation has been given to the families of the victims?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Apparently, the question refers to the head-on-collision, between 442 Dn. Mixed and 807 Up Goods trains between Katihar and Sempur Stations on the Katihar-Lucknow Section of the North Eastern Railway. The Provisional finding of the Government Inspector of Railways, who held his statutory enquiry into the accident, is that the collision was caused by the failure on the part of the Driver of 442 Dn.

(b) The Driver was arrested and has been released on bail. He is under suspension.

(c) (i) Six persons died.

(ii) Fourteen (14) persons were grievously injured and 35 slightly.

(d) Not so far, as no claims have yet been received by the *Ex Officio* Claims Commissioner.

POST OFFICE AT RAMAVARAM

*107. **Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from the Singareni collieries workers' Union for converting the extra Department post office at Ramavaram Warangal District, into Branch Post office;

(b) if so, the date when the representation was received;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) the decision since arrived at?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) A representation was received for converting the Ramavaram extra departmental branch office into a sub-office.

(b) In September, 1952.

(c) and (d). It has been decided to convert the office into a sub-office as soon as accommodation for the purpose is available.

PENCH VALLEY COAL-FIELDS

*108. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government have decided to construct a hospital in the Pench Valley Coal-fields of Madhya Pradesh?

(b) If so, what is the proposed cost of this hospital?

(c) When is the construction work likely to begin?

(d) If not, when are Government likely to come to a decision in the matter?

(e) From which fund is the cost to be borne?

(f) Are there any Ayurvedic dispensaries provided there for Coal-fields labour?