

Actual expenditure as against these sanctioned amounts will not be known for sometime.

(c) 1952-53 Rs. 38.35 lakhs.

1953-54 Nothing has been sanctioned so far.

TUBE-WELLS

*407. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tube-wells so far constructed;

(b) the location and cost of each of them; and

(c) whether Government have formed any opinion about the success or otherwise of this venture?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Under the tubewell construction schemes started at the instance of the Government of India, 815 tubewells have been drilled upto 15th July, 1953.

(b) 362 tubewells in U.P. at an average cost of Rs. 20,700 per well. 212 tubewells in Bihar at an average cost of Rs. 20,000 per well. 216 tubewells in Punjab at an average cost of Rs. 25,129 per well. 25 tubewells in Bombay at an average cost of Rs. 33,075 per well.

(c) Large-scale tubewell construction has so far been undertaken in the Indo-Gangetic plain of U.P., Bihar and Punjab where underground water suitable for irrigation is known to exist in adequate quantities. As such, the question of any failure of the schemes, does not arise.

SINKING OF MASONRY WELLS IN PUNJAB

*408. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under the Five-Year Plan to subsidise the sinking of masonry wells in the Punjab especially in those areas where canal and tubewells irrigation facilities cannot be made available?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): No, Sir. The Punjab Plan provides for the construction of masonry wells on loan basis only.

TELEGRAPH CENTENARY

*411. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is fact that Government propose to hold the Telegraph Centenary during the year 1953?

(b) If so, what is the programme?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes.

(b) The programme consists of the following:—

(1) Publication of a commemorative volume indicating the progress made in the field of tele-communications in India during the last hundred years.

(2) Holding of an exhibition from 1st to 30th November, 1953, at New Delhi and later on at Calcutta and Bombay.

(3) Holding a convention of eminent tele-communication engineers.

CENTRAL MECHANISED FARM IN JAMMU

*414. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Mechanised farm in Jammu started its operation with reclamation of unculturable lands or with culturable lands side by side with reclamation works;

(b) the total area of lands on which wheat was grown during the last season;

(c) the total area of lands over which paddy has been or proposed to be grown during the year 1953;

(d) the total amount spent over the reclamation works so far; and

(e) the recurring expenditure over establishment?