

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

*431. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the total number of graduates and matriculates registered for employment by the end of the year 1952-53 and still unemployed?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): At the end of March, 1953, 14,136 graduates and 1,03,800 matriculates who needed employment assistance remained on the Live Registers of Employment Exchanges.

LABOUR WELFARE FUNDS

*432. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state what response has been received from the State Governments to the Central Government's request for constitution of Labour Welfare Funds in the Central Government undertakings?

(b) Have they issued necessary instructions to the employers' organisations and industrial undertakings also to do likewise on voluntary basis?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) State Governments have not been requested to arrange for the setting up of Labour Welfare Funds in Central Government undertakings. They were, however, requested in October 1952 to persuade industrial undertakings within their jurisdiction to set up such Funds on a voluntary basis. The replies received so far suggest that the response has not been very encouraging.

(b) The Central Government have not addressed employers' organisations or industrial undertakings direct but some State Governments have written to them.

TEA GARDEN WORKERS

*433. **Shri Bell Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state how many labourers have so far been thrown out of employment due to the recent closure of tea gardens in India?

(b) How many of them have been re-employed in the re-opened tea gardens?

(c) How many of them have been employed in other works?

(d) How many of them are without employment at present?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) to (d). A statement containing available information in respect of the States of Assam, West Bengal, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh is laid on the Table of the House. No tea garden was closed in Madras, Bihar, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin, Himachal Pradesh and Coorg. The Government of Punjab have reported that most of the workers who were employed in the tea plantations during the previous years are employed at present. (See Appendix II, annexure No. 47.)

TELEGRAPH CENTENARY

*439. **Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how much expenditure will be incurred on the printing of special postage stamps in commemoration of the Telegraph Centenary to be celebrated in November, 1953?

(b) How long will such stamps be on sale?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) The expenditure is not yet known as the stamps are still under print.

(b) As long as the stocks of such stamps will be available in Post offices.

अचनेरा स्टेशन के पास रेल दुर्घटना

२१८. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : (क) क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि आगरा काठगोदाम पैसेंजर ट्रेन ३१ मई, १९५३ को आगरा से १२ मील दूर अचनेरा स्टेशन के पास दुर्घटनाग्रस्त