

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) to (e). A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table [See Appendix III, annexure No. 21.]

#### NON-PAYMENT OF SUGAR-CANE PRICES

**\*562. Shri Gopala Rao:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount paid by the sugar mills to the sugarcane growers for their sugarcane during the years 1951-52 and 1952-53 (State-wise);

(b) the total amount in arrears of these dues during the years 1951-52 and 1952-53;

(c) the carry over of the previous years separately and State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure the early payment of these arrears?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) to (c). A statement showing the information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 22.]

(d) The State Governments were advised by the Central Government in January, 1953 to keep a constant watch over the position regarding payment of cane prices and take steps to ensure that payments are not unduly delayed. The State Governments have been taking all possible steps to expedite payments of arrears of cane price.

#### REVISION OF POSTAL RATES ON BOOKS

**\*563. Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the agitation carried on by the authors, printers, publishers and booksellers all over the country against the increase in postal rates on books;

(b) whether Government have received representations in this connection; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to revise these rates and restore the pre-budget rates?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a). The Government have seen press reports of resolutions passed at meetings held at several places protesting against the revised rates for book, pattern and sample packets.

(b) Yes.

(c) No, the rates were revised only in the last Budget Session.

#### STRIKE BY COAL MINERS OF DHANBAD

**\*564. Shri Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have assured the miners of Dhanbad that they would appoint a new Conciliation Board for the coal industry?

(b) If so, when will the Board be set up?

(c) Will the Board have representatives of all the miners' organisations on it?

**The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri):** (a) to (c). The request of the colliery workers for the setting up of a new Board of Conciliation was under the consideration of Government for some time. It has now been decided to refer a number of disputes in the coal fields to an Industrial Tribunal for adjudication. The Tribunal will be set up as soon as the arrangements are complete.

#### RAILWAY ACCIDENTS

**\*565. Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) (i) the number of railway accidents which have taken place in the year 1952-53,

(ii) the nature of the accidents, and

(iii) the number of persons killed and injured separately mentioning casualties among railway staff: