

श्री राज बहादुर : सामान का न मिलना।

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN PUNJAB

*518. **Shri Ram Dass:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state :

(a) the number of places in the Punjab from where requests have been received for opening of sub-post offices; and

(b) whether all the police stations in the Punjab have been telegraphically connected with the district headquarters?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 15; out of which 7 Sub Post Offices were opened, 4 were not justified and 4 are under examination.

(b) 61 Stations remain to be connected.

Shri Ram Dass: May I know whether applications for starting sub post office and telegraph office have been received from Noor-per-Bedi in Hoshiarpur district?

Shri Raj Bahadur: In all we got fifteen applications out of which, as I have just submitted, seven were accepted, four were rejected and four are pending. Apart from that there were forty-four applications for converting branch offices into sub offices. Of these, sixteen were accepted, six were rejected and twenty-two are pending.

Shri Ram Dass: The point is whether any application has been received from Noor-per-Bedi?

Shri Raj Bahadur: I would like to have a specific question about that particular place.

JUTE SEED ACTS

*521. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken so far in pursuance of the recommendation of the Expert Committee, to provide retting facilities to jute

growers and also enactment of Jute Seed Acts?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Construction of 130 new retting tanks and re-excavation of 130 old ones has been taken up in West Bengal and is likely to be completed within the current financial year. Bihar has decided to construct 1,000 retting tanks in 1954-55. Assam has taken up excavation of 60 new tanks and re-excavation of 120 old ones. In Orissa, survey work in 10 major jute growing areas is over and excavation of 200 new tanks and re-excavation of 150 old ones are likely to be completed in the current financial year. U.P. has decided to excavate 20 new retting tanks in the current financial year.

The question of enacting Jute Seed Acts in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and U.P. is under consideration of the State Governments. Orissa does not contemplate enacting such legislation at present.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know how these tanks are to be excavated: whether at Government cost or partially by the Government and partially by the peasants?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is almost wholly by Government.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know what amount is allotted to the State of Bihar under this head?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have not got the figure here. In respect of some States I have got them.

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know the object behind the proposed Jute Seed Act?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In order to see that purity and high quality are maintained and other inferior seeds are not allowed in that area. This is done with regard to other crops also like cotton wherever there are protected areas.

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know what reason Orissa Government has