

the policemen were there. In fact, the departure meant that the French authority was giving up that big area to the local public. We allowed them to do that and gave some protection to them to go across—it was Indian territory involved—about three-fourths of a mile. We did not want any incident to occur through that short distance.

Shri Raghuramaiah: Recently there have been a number of cases where the French police have pressed into Indian territory and committed a lot of arrests. May I take it that sufficient precautions are now being taken on our border for security arrangements?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the hon. Member means by precaution as if there is some grave danger of something occurring to India or to the Indian borders. There is no such danger. Naturally, precautions are taken for a variety of reasons but, not from the point of view of the hon. Member, that some aggression is going to take place on India.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CENTRAL FOREST DEPARTMENT

*2456. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government exercise any sort of control or supervision on or give guidance to the State Forest Departments; and

(b) if so, the nature and extent thereof?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). Yes; the Central Board of Forestry, constituted at Ministerial level, secures the necessary co-ordination between States in matters relating to forest management. The Inspector-General of Forests, advises the State in professional and technical matters whenever such advice is sought.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN BIHAR

*2446. **Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in Bihar for the opening of which estimates were sanctioned in 1953;

(b) the names of exchanges that have not been opened so far; and

(c) the causes of delay in opening them?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 5.

(b) Sitamarhi, Chakradarpur and Forbesganj.

(c) Delay in getting rented accommodation at Sitamarhi and Forbesganj, and in acquisition of site for an Exchange building at Chakradarpur.

COTTON SAMPLES

*2467. **Shri Vallatharas:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of samples of Indian cotton tested by the Cotton Technological Laboratory, Matunga, in 1952 and 1953;

(b) whether any investigations have been made to study the mixing of Indian cotton with regard to their fibre properties;

(c) if so, what are the results;

(d) how far research work and testing have been carried on towards establishing a universal standard for staple length regarding short staple Indian cottons; and

(e) what arrangements are being made to clear the accumulation of samples?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The number of samples of Indian Cotton tested by the Cotton Technological Laboratory are:—

1951-52	...	1925
1952-53	...	1974