

A sum of Rs. 3,000 was also given to the Mission in 1952-53 from the Health Minister's Welfare Fund.

#### JUTE RESEARCH

\*1866. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Technological Research Expert Committee has been appointed by the Indian Central Jute Committee to examine the Research Expansion Scheme for woollenising jute; and

(b) if so, what are its recommendations?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):**

(a) The Indian Central Jute Committee appointed in 1953 a Technological Research Expert Committee to examine the technological research expansion scheme, including one for woollenising jute, prepared by the Director, Technological Research Laboratory of the Indian Central Jute Committee.

(b) The Expert Committee has recommended that priority should be given to the schemes for (a) woollenising of jute, (b) making cheap wrappers from a mixture of wool and wollenised jute, and (c) making of ply yarn with wool and woollenised jute for knitting purposes.

#### INDIAN TELEPHONE INDUSTRIES

\*1867. **Shri Krishnacharyya Joshi:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the total number of telephones manufactured during 1953 in the Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., Bangalore?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** 39,997.

#### P.T.O. CONCESSION

\*1868. { **Shri Raghaviah:**  
**Shri Ramananda Das:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether P.T.O. concession for postal employees is in force or has been withdrawn; and

(b) if so, the reasons for its withdrawal?

**The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar):** (a) and (b). The concession for all employees has been held in abeyance in view of the imperative need for economy in expenditure.

#### GANGA BRIDGE

\*1881. **Th. Jugal Kishore Sinha:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the progress made so far in the construction of the Ganga-bridge?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** Contracts for part supply of pitching stones have been let out and global tenders for the construction of the main bridge have been invited. These would be opened by the end of May, 1954. Arrangements for the collection of other material and the preparation of detailed designs for various items of work are in hand.

#### COTTON TECHNOLOGISTS FROM U.S.A.

\*1882. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of prominent cotton technologists from the United States has been invited and has arrived in India; and

(b) if so, for what purpose they have been invited?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 40.]

#### CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT

\*1883. **Shri P. N. Rajabhoj:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the operational staff of the aerodrome organisation of the Civil Aviation Department are subjected to a visual test every year;

(b) if so, whether such of the employees who are declared medically