

(b) the expenditure incurred therefrom upto the 31st March, 1954; and

(c) the number of quarters constructed for Coal Mine Workers upto the 31st March, 1954, out of that Fund?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) Eight crores ninety nine lakhs ninety five thousand four hundred and forty seven rupees.

(b) Four crores sixty four lakhs sixty thousand six hundred and eighty five rupees.

(c) 1. Houses constructed entirely at the cost of the Fund: 2153;

2. Houses constructed under the Subsidised Housing Scheme of the Fund:

(a) Houses sanctioned: 2767,

(b) Houses completed: 1386,

(c) Houses under construction: 191

**Shri Gidwani:** Are there any arrears yet to be recovered from the miners, and if so, what steps are being taken to recover the same?

**Shri Abid Ali:** No arrears are to be recovered from miners.

**Shri Gidwani:** What are the other measures adopted for the welfare of labourers?

**Shri Abid Ali:** The whole scheme is for the welfare of labour. They attend to hospitalisation, anti-T.B. measures, and leprosy relief; maternity and child welfare centres have been established. There is also grant to collieries for maintaining dispensary services. And there are so many other items that we attend to.

**Shri Gidwani:** What are the special measures adopted for labourers who fall victims to T.B.?

**Shri Abid Ali:** As I said earlier, anti-T.B. measures are adopted. While

they work in the coal field also, steps have have been taken both preventive and curative.

**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** May I know whether this Fund is kept merged with the Consolidated Fund of India, or it is kept as a separate Fund, and interest earned upon it?

**Shri Abid Ali:** It is a separate fund

**Shri U. M. Trivedi:** Is any interest earned upon it?

#### ELECTRIC COACHES

\*1353. **Shri R. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether any order for new electric coaches has been placed recently;

(b) if so, for how many; and

(c) the names of the firms with which the orders have been placed?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 24 Metre Gauge in November, 1952 and 50 Broad Gauge in January 1954.

(c) Messrs. Breda Ferroviaria Sesto, S. Giovanni-Milano of Italy.

#### AUTOMATISATION OF CALCUTTA TELEPHONE SYSTEM

\*1355. **Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state when the automation of the Telephone System will be completed in Calcutta?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** By the end of 1957.

**Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:** May I know what is delaying the change over to this automatic system that we may not have it before 1957?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** This is a very big project costing about Rs. 14 crores and more. As is well-known to the hon. Member, the *ex-Bengal* Telephone Company left the present telephone system in a very bad way; they had not done any replacements and repairs for years, and we had to take over the system in that condition. Therefore, a good deal of planning had to be undertaken because Calcutta is a big city, and it was as late as 1951 that the project for automatization was sanctioned. Ever since then, we have been going at almost break-neck speed in trying to execute this job as early as possible.

**Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:** Owing to the system being made automatic some people will naturally be thrown out of work. How are they going to be absorbed?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** So far as stage I is concerned, I may give the figures. Stage I consisted of the opening of the Central, Jorasanka and Avenue exchanges with a capacity of 4000, 5600 and 4200 lines. In that, only 24 telephone operators were rendered surplus, and all of them have been absorbed in the Calcutta Trunk Exchange.

On the cut-over of stage II, which is going to take place in May, 120 telephone operators will be spare to our requirements and it is proposed to absorb them in the West Bengal Circle itself, or if it becomes necessary, to transfer them to adjoining areas for absorption.

**Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** May I know whether the new telephone directory will be prepared and published prior to the automatization of the telephones, in view of the fact that almost all the numbers in Calcutta have been changed?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** We hope that it will be published by the middle of April.

#### POSTAL CONCESSIONS FOR FRUIT PARCELS

\*1357. **Shri Hem Raj:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received from the Kulu Fruit Growers Association for the grant of concessional rates for fruit parcels; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) A representation from the Punjab State Government has been received asking for concessional rates on fruit parcels sent from Kulu Valley.

(b) No decision has yet been taken in the matter.

**Shri Hem Raj:** May I know by what time the decision will be taken?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** In due course.

**Shri Hem Raj:** What will be the duration of that course?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** I will not be able to give a definite date. I shall try to expedite the decision.

#### नये टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज और पब्लिक काल आफिस

\*१३५०. श्री भक्त वर्मान : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि सन् १९५४-५५ के बजट प्राक्कलन में नये टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज तथा पब्लिक काल आफिस के लिये निश्चित गरीश का अब तक विभिन्न सर्कलों में किस तरह बंटवाग किया गया है ?

संचार उपमंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर): एक विवरण लोक-सभा पटल पर रखा जाता है। [वीसवें परिशिष्ट ९, अनुसूच संख्या २१]।

श्री भक्त वर्मान : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि विभिन्न सर्कलों में जो बंटवारा किया जाता है उस के लिये उन से मांगें ली जाती