

to Rs. 21,316/8/- and Rs. 25,000 respectively.

(d) State Governments have been requested to plant fruit, fuel and other kinds of trees according to local conditions and demands. The planting programme is finalised in consultation with the State Agriculture and Forest Departments.

(e) Discretion in respect of the choice is left to the State Governments which are in the best position to formulate their planting programmes to suit local conditions.

(f) The success of the 'Vana Mahotsava' movement is to be judged not by the number of plants put out, but by the general countrywide interest it has aroused to the need for raising more trees and protecting the existing ones. It is a mass movement the psychological effect of which does not lend itself to a purely quantitative appraisal.

DE-CONTROLLED CEREALS

208. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which have totally or partially de-controlled cereals and the extent to which such de-control is effected; and

(b) the names of the States which have not still de-controlled cereals?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) A note indicating the States where relaxation of controls has been allowed and the extent of such relaxation is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 46.]

Apart from this, certain relaxations regarding millets and other coarse grains within each State have also since been decided recently.

(b) Subject to what has been said in reply to question (a) regarding millets and other coarse grains, the other State Governments have retained the restrictions already in force in their jurisdictions.

MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS IN P. & T. DEPARTMENT

209. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number and working condition, as on the 31st October, 1952 of (i) automatic stamp vending machines in India; (ii) mechanical franking devices, and collecting of mails; (iii) mechanised transport of mails in rural areas; and (iv) other

mechanical instruments or devices introduced to expedite the work of the Post and Telegraphs Offices?

(b) What is the capital invested in these mechanical instruments or aids to the collection, franking, distribution of mails and telegraphs?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) (i) Only one post card vending machine is at present in use. The machine is in good working condition and is being tried in Chandni-Chowk Post Office, Delhi.

(ii) 179 Stamp Cancelling machines have been supplied of which 132 are in good working condition. Most of the others require minor repairs and will be brought into use shortly.

No mechanical devices such as conveyor belts are at present in use in the Post Office for collection of mails.

(iii) The department does not own any mechanised transport in rural areas—Mails are sent through passenger buses on payment.

(iv) The following machines are in use in Telegraph offices and Combined Offices. They are all in good working order.

National Cash Registers	30.
Adrema machines	28.
Addressograph machines	14.

(b) Rs. 4,34,862/10/-.

COAL MINES PROVIDENT FUND AND BONUS SCHEMES ACT

210. **Shri N. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether a separate staff is maintained for administering the provisions of Coal Mines Provident Fund and Bonus Schemes Act, 1948?

(b) What is the annual cost incurred for maintaining such a staff, if any?

(c) What action is taken against an employer or an employee for not contributing to the Scheme?

(d) Has any action been taken against any person in the Bihar Coal fields in the year 1951-1952?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) A separate staff is being maintained for the administration of the Coal Mines Provident Fund. This staff was also administering the Coal Mines Bonus Scheme till August 1952, when that work was transferred to the Industrial Relations Machinery under the Central Government. In the Industrial Relations Machinery no