

(b) Could any of these be delivered to the senders or the addressees after opening by the Dead Letter Office?

(c) What happened to the rest?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No separate record is kept of Parcels with faint or illegible addresses. 12,890 parcels were however received by the Dead Letter Offices during 1952.

(b) Yes, Sir. 10,249.

(c) They were treated as 'dead' and disposed of under the departmental rules i.e., they were held in deposit or sold by auction or destroyed according to the nature of the contents.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGES

1002. { **Shri Bahadur Singh:**
Sardar Hukam Singh:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what is the number of Telephone Exchanges in India on the 31st January, 1953?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): 762, including private exchanges and licensed Telephone systems.

MINIMUM WAGES ACT (STONE INDUSTRY)

1003. **Shri Jajwara:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether the Minimum Wages Act is applied to Stone Industry?

(b) Is it in force in Pakur and Rajmahal Stone Quarries in the Santhal Parganas, Bihar?

(c) Do the labour of stone quarries enjoy the same benefit of maternity, bonus, etc. as the labour in other fields?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, is applicable to employment in stone breaking or stone crushing only.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, assuming, the reference is to the maternity benefit and bonus provided for in the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941.

IMPORTED FOODGRAINS (WASTAGE)

1004. **Dr. Amin:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of imported foodgrains lying in stock with Government on the 31st December, 1952;

(b) the total quantity and value of foodgrains wasted or spoiled due to

bad storage at ports or due to any other reasons during the year 1952; and

(c) the total quantity and value of foodgrains wasted during transit in India during the same period?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The total quantity of imported foodgrains in the Central Government storage on the 31st December 1952 was 4,13,670 tons valued at Rs. 2,402 lakhs.

(b) Total quantity of foodgrains lost in storage through deterioration and dryage at ports during the year 1952 is 448 tons valued at about Rs. 2.5 lakhs. This figure is for the period January to October 1952.

(c) Total quantity estimated to have been lost or damaged in transit by rail during the year 1952 was 2491 tons valued at Rs. 9.8 lakhs. Information regarding loss during transit by road is not available.

TELEGRAPH OFFICES FOR DARBHANGA DISTRICT

1005. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar have made some recommendations for opening telegraph offices in some parts of the Darbhanga District; and

(b) if so, what are the names of places and the reactions of the Government of India?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). The Bihar Government had asked for the terms for opening telegraph offices at Loukaha and Loukhi and these have been communicated to them.

CENTRAL TRACTOR ORGANISATION

1006. **Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage of land reclaimed State-wise by the Central Tractor Organisation in 1952-53; and

(b) whether Government propose to increase the number of tractors in the Central Tractor Organization during the year 1953-54?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The total area reclaimed by the Central Tractor Orga-