

## UDAIPUR-BANTWARA TELEPHONE LINE

522. **Shri Bheekha Bhai:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone line from Udaipur to Bantwara is of temporary character having wooden posts;

(b) whether Government propose to rehabilitate the entire line; and

(c) if so, when?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) In 1953-54.

## FOODGRAINS FOR BIHAR

523. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar have made any demand to the Government of India for foodgrains for the year 1953; and

(b) if so, what is the quantity of rice and other foodgrains demanded?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. They have asked for 50,000 tons of rice and 130,000 tons of other grains for 1953.

## INSTALLATION OF TELEPHONE SERVICE AT KARAVAN

524. **Dr. Amin:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the former Baroda State had sanctioned a scheme for the installation of a telephone service at Karavan town in Baroda district before its merger with Bombay State?

(b) What was the amount sanctioned by the former Baroda State for this scheme?

(c) When was the equipment for this scheme purchased and stored near Karavan Station?

(d) What is the total value of this equipment?

(e) Is the equipment still lying at Karavan Station or has it been removed from there and, if removed, the reasons therefor and the expenses incurred by Government for their removal from Karavan to the place of destination?

(f) Has this equipment been installed or is still lying idle, and if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) No specific amount was sanctioned by the Baroda State for this scheme separately. A lump allotment of Rs. 4,74,814 was made for the provision of telephone facilities at a number of places including Karvan.

(c) No equipment was purchased specifically for this work, but stores were obtained from Departmental store depots as usual. The telephone equipment was stored at Baroda and the line stores at Miyagam (near Karvan). The stores were received towards the close of 1951.

(d) Line stores of the value of Rs. 3,300/-.

(e) The equipment is still lying at Baroda and the line stores at Miyagam.

(f) The equipment has not been installed. The reason is that the Branch Post Office at Karvan is manned by an extra-departmental Agent. A decision has now been taken that Public Call Offices connected to trunks may be manned by extra departmental agents provided suitable persons prepared to furnish a security are available. The question of opening a Public Call Office at Karvan is being examined accordingly.

## RAILWAY CLAIMS

525. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state the total amount of compensation paid and claims outstanding for the loss of goods booked on the Indian Railways during the year 1952-53?

(b) Have any losses of goods booked on Government account been sustained during the same period and if so, what is the procedure for the recovery of these?

(c) What steps have been taken to prevent these losses and what has been the effect of these steps?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The total amount of compensation paid on account of loss of goods over the Indian Railways during the period 1st April 1952 to 31st December 1952 was Rs. 2,39,37,618 and the number of claims outstanding during the same period was 69,894.

(b) Yes. Government Departments are required to follow the same procedure for preferring claims for compensation for goods lost as the general public.