

recovered and the amount realised as fines or otherwise; and

(e) the effective measures proposed to be taken to check robberies on Railways?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** The detailed information asked for is not readily available. Some of it will require to be collected by individual railways from State Governments concerned and this is being done. The information will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as collected.

#### RAILWAY UNIONS

\* 233. **Giani G. S. Musafir:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Unions recognised by each Railway in India; and

(b) the criteria that govern the recognition of these Unions?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The number of Unions which were recognised on the constituent units before regrouping were as shown below:—

Eastern Railway	... 8
North Eastern Railway	... 5
Northern Railway	... 7
Central Railway	... 4
Western Railway	... 5
Southern Railway	... 4

Consequent on regrouping, a number of these Unions on the respective Railways are in the process of amalgamation at present.

(b) Recognition to unions or associations of non-gazetted staff employed on Indian Government Railways is governed by the Rules in Parts B and C of Appendix XIII of the Indian Railway Establishment Code, Vol. I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

#### TELEPHONES (RENT)

234. **Shri Thimmalah:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state what are the reasons for increasing the rent of telephones in certain States?

(b) How many telephones have been surrendered by the owners in Mysore State after the rise in the rate of rent on telephones?

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**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) The rentals have been revised so as to accord with the standard Departmental rates in all ex-state systems for the following reasons:

(1) Necessity for uniformity of rates throughout the country;

(2) Increase of expenditure in improvements in ex-state telephone systems and provision of additional trunk facilities;

(3) Expenditure on planning, development and provision of telecommunication facilities in ex-state territories;

(4) Increase of expenditure due to ex-state staff being given the benefit of Posts and Telegraphs scales of pay.

(b) Twenty-five, but it cannot be inferred that these disconnections have been made as a result of the rise in rates. As a matter of fact, fresh connections have also been given since that date and the demand is so great that it cannot be met.

#### बर्मा से चावल का आयात

२३५. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: (क) क्या काय तथा ह्री मन्त्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि सन् १९५२ में बर्मा से कितना चावल भारत में आयात किया गया था तथा किस भाव के हिसाब से आयात किया गया था; और १९५३ में सरकार द्वारा कितना चावल कित्त भाव पर आयात किये जाने की सम्भावना है?

(ख) क्या यह सत्य है कि बर्मा का चावल अन्य देशों की अपेक्षा सस्ता पड़ता है; तथा यदि सत्ता सड़ना है, तो कितना?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) It will not be in the public interest to disclose the price of the rice imported during 1952 or likely to be imported during the year 1953. The total quantity of Burma rice imported during 1952 is about 3,50,000 tons. The quantity of rice to be imported during 1953 has not yet been settled.

(b) Since qualities of rice differ from country to country it would be difficult to compare the price of rice of one country with the price of rice of other countries.