

(b) if so, the nature of the decision taken?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration.

WORK-CHARGED STAFF OF C.P.W.D.
(*Chowkidars*)

897. Shri Ramananda Das: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that minimum wages are applicable to the *chowkidars* in the work-charged establishment in Central P.W.D. for whom minimum wages have been fixed *vide* Ministry of Labour Notification No. S.R.O.-1065, dated the 11th July, 1951;

(b) whether it is a fact that according to Minimum Wages Rules, no worker can be asked to work more than nine hours a day and 48 hours a week;

(c) if so, whether it is in contravention of the rules that the *chowkidars* are compelled to work twelve hours a day; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to regularize the matter?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (d). The question whether these *chowkidars* are governed by this notification and if so to what extent, is under examination of Government.

N. E. F. A.

898. Shri Bimlaprosad Chaliha: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of incidents that took place in the N.E.F.A. area since 1950 which have resulted in deaths of Government servants;

(b) the number of persons killed and the causes for such incidents in each case; and

(c) the steps that Government are taking to prevent recurrence of such incidents?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

PARAFFIN WAX

899. Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of paraffin wax produced in India during 1954 so far;

(b) the quantity consumed locally and the quantity exported during the same period; and

(c) the amount of the foreign exchange earned by this export?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) to (c). It is not in the public interest to disclose information relating to production and consumption of Petroleum products. As regards the quantity of Paraffin Wax exported upto the end of June, 1954, and the value of such exports, a statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 33.]

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT STORES

900. Sardar Hukam Singh: Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the book value of the stores that were released to Government indentors from the 1st January to the 30th November, 1954 by the Director-General of Supplies and Disposals; and

(b) the value of surplus stores, not taken over by Government indentors or other priority indentors, sold by (i) tenders and (ii) public auction?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Rs. 0.70 crores.

(b) (i) Rs. 5.97 crores (Book Value).

(ii) Rs. 6.39 crores (Book Value).