

संचार उपमंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर) :

(क) डाक घर ७३
तार घर १५

(ख) तय (ग), कृपया साथ में लगा विवरण देखिये [दक्षिण परिशिष्ट द, अनु-बन्ध मसूदा १०];

Potato Cultivation

738. **Shri Janardhan Reddy** : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state :

(a) the area under potato cultivation in the country till the end of May, 1955;

(b) whether there was any increase in the area as also in the output of potato as compared to the previous years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A.P. Jain): (a) According to the All-India Second Estimate of Potatoes, 1954-55, which is the latest estimate available at present, the area under potato cultivation in the country till the end of May, 1955 was 639,000 acres.

(b) According to the Estimate referred to previously, while there has been a slight increase in the area under potato cultivation in 1954-55 as compared to the corresponding adjusted estimate for the previous year, there has been a slight decrease in production.

(c) The decline in production is mainly due to unfavourable climatic conditions, especially in Bihar and West Bengal. The Final Estimate, which is due in the latter half of October will give the position for the whole crop for the season 1954-55.

Telephone Exchanges in Bombay

739. **Shri M. D. Joshi** : Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) how many new telephone Exchanges are proposed to be opened in

Bombay State during 1955 and at what places; and

(b) how many of them have so far been opened?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur) (a) and (b). Already opened during 1955-56:

1. Bagalkot;
2. Kopergaon;
3. Panvel;
4. Rajpipla.

Expected to be opened during the current year:

1. Ahwa;
2. Baramati;
3. Bardoli;
4. Bhiwandi;
5. Bordad;
6. Byadgi;
7. Chalisgaon;
8. Haveri;
9. Himmatnagar;
10. Kadi;
11. Karwar;
12. Miraj;
13. Miyagam Karjan;
14. Nipani;
15. Pachora;
16. Ratnagiri;
17. Umreth;
18. Visnagar.

Schemes for all the 18 places have already been sanctioned, but the opening of the exchanges by March 1956 is subject to availability of materials in time.

Ratnagiri Port

740. **Shri M. D. Joshi** : Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Ratnagiri has been selected as an 'Intermediate Port' for development;

(b) if so, the nature of the proposed development; and

(c) when the plans for development will be finalised?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The port at Ratnagiri has been classified as an intermediate port for purposes of development.

(b) and (c). Proposals for development based on the result of surveys which have been carried out are under preparation by the State Government.