

(a) the total mileage constructed under the National Highway Scheme in Punjab State in 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1956 and the total amount spent in these years; and

(b) the progress so far made on Delhi-Ferozepore-Fazilka Road?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A statement giving the required information is attached. [See Appendix V, annexure No. 13].

(b) The Delhi-Fazilka road which is a National Highway has been asphalted over its entire length, widened to a two lane carriageway from Delhi to Rohtak and provided with a new bridge over the Ghaghar. The Fazilka-Ferozepore road is not a National Highway but aid was given by the Centre towards improving and asphaltting it.

POSTAL FACILITIES IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

465. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of posts and telegraphs offices opened during 1954-55 and 1955-56 in Jammu and Kashmir?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

OILSEEDS

466. Dr. J. N. Parekh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a fall in the production of oilseeds in the country during 1955-56;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated shortfall as compared to the last year's crop; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to look after consumers' interest against rising prices?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (c). Of the 5 major oilseed crops, viz. groundnut, linseed, castor seed, mustard seed and sesamum seed, the production estimates of only groundnut and sesamum are at present available. According to the All-India Final Estimate of Groundnut, 1955-56, there has been a decline of about 7.8% in the production of this crop as compared to the previous year due to inadequate rainfall during the early part of the monsoon in Saurashtra and certain other parts of the country. According to the All-India Third Estimate of Sesamum (Til or Gingelly), 1955-56, there has been a decline of about 21.6% in the production of this crop as compared to the corresponding adjusted estimate of the previous year due to unfavourable climatic conditions this year particularly during growing period of this crop. This estimate does not cover the entire area sown to this crop, during 1955-56.

(d) Government are keeping a constant watch on the trends of production, consumption requirements, prices, effects of exports on the internal prices, etc. and are taking suitable steps such as adjustment of export policy, duties, etc. as and when called for.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

467. Shri M. Islamuddin: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial disputes recorded during the year 1955 as compared to the year 1954; and

(b) the number of workers involved in each of the years?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) and (b). Statistics of industrial disputes, which resulted in work stoppages, are only available and they are furnished below:—

Period	No. of disputes.	No. of workers involved
1955	840	477,138
1955	1129*	498,824*

*Figures provisiona