

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement giving the programme of fairs and exhibitions for the year 1956-57 is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 91]. The programme for the period April to December, 1957, is under consideration.

(c) The number and nature of exhibits depend on the potentialities of the markets served by the exhibition. Speaking generally, apart from handicrafts and handloom products, all exportable products, agricultural, mineral, and industrial, are exhibited. Steps are also taken to display by means of charts, maps, and animated models the industrial and economic progress the country is making from year to year.

Mr. Chou-En-Lai's Visit to India

***508. Shri Shivnanajappa:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister of China, Mr. Chou-En-Lai, has been invited to visit India;

(b) if so, whether the invitation has been accepted; and

(c) when the visit will take place?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) On 28th November, 1956.

P. & T. Office, Abohar

***509. {Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Sardar Akarpuri:**

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to construct a suitable building for the Post and Telegraph and Telephone Exchange Office at Abohar;

(b) when this decision was taken; and

(c) what steps so far have been taken to construct the building?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c) No scheme has been sanctioned for the purpose. A suitable site is being looked for.

P. & T. Employees

346. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Posts and Telegraphs employees drawing salaries below Rs. 100/- per month at present; and

(b) the number of Posts and Telegraphs Officers drawing salaries over Rs. 2,000 per month at present?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 237,352 on the 31-7-56. This figure includes:—

(i) 83,725 Extra Departmental Agents who are part time allowed agents having independent means of livelihood and whose remuneration varies from 20/- to 65/- P.M.; and

(ii) 153,627 Departmental employees. This includes 2,074 Boy Peons in receipt of a minimum pay plus dearness allowance of Rs. 60/- per month; 69,204 employees in receipt of pay plus dearness allowance exceeding Rs. 100/- P.M.; and the rest in receipt of pay plus dearness allowance between Rs. 70 and Rs. 100/-.

(b) 11 (including 3 Officers on leave) on the same date.

This includes:—

(i) 1 Officer on a pay not over Rs. 2,250/-;

(ii) 4 Officers on a pay not over Rs. 2,500/-;

(iii) 3 Officers on a pay not over Rs. 2,750/-;

(iv) 2 Officers on a pay not over Rs. 3,000/-; and

(v) 1 Officer drawing pay over Rs. 3,000/-.

The emoluments of 5 of these Officers if income tax is deducted, would be less than Rs. 2,000/-.

Coal Mine Disasters

347. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Coal Mines disasters which occurred in India during January, 1956 to October, 1956; and

(b) the total number of persons killed and injured during the same period?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Five.

(b) Killed. 44.

Injured. 3.

Khadi Emporia

348. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of emporia to be opened in India during the current financial year in order to increase the sale of Khadi; and