

- (ii) Enhanced punishment for culprits who repeat the offence,
- (iii) Replacement of copper wire by copper weld wire.
- (iv) In addition, the number of circuits has been increased from 3 to 5 on a high frequency carrier system and since then circuit efficiency has improved considerably. As a long term measure it is also planned to lay a cable from Delhi to Ambala which will eliminate line interruptions and copper wire thefts in this section.

#### Acreage of Khar Land in the Country

444. **Shri Vishram Prasad:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total acreage of 'Khar Land' in the country, State-wise; and

(b) efforts made to recover the land and the land so recovered during 1961?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** (a) and (b). The information has been called for from the State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha on receipt.

#### Tickets Missing from Damoh Railway Station on Central Railway

445. { **Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
 { **Shri S. C. Samanta:**  
 { **Shri B. K. Das:**  
 { **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a pile of tickets of various denominations is missing from Damoh Railway station of Central Railway;

(b) if so, how it has vanished from the Railway station;

(c) whether any investigation was made; and

(d) if so, the result thereof?

#### The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):

(a) Yes. Some tickets were found missing from stock.

(b) to (d). Investigation is in progress.

#### मुस्करा में तार मुविधायें

४४६. { श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी .  
 { श्री स० चं० सामन्त :  
 { श्री ब० कु० वास :  
 { श्री सुबोध हंसदा :

क्या परिष्कृत तथा संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हमीरपुर जिले के केंद्र में स्थित ५,००० से ऊपर आबादी वाले ग्राम मुस्करा में क्या तार की व्यवस्था के लिये कोई लिखा-पट्टी की गई थी ; और

(ख) जब कि इस ग्राम से १६ मील से भी अधिक दूरी पर चारों ओर तार भेजने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है तो क्या यहां शीघ्र ही तारघर खोलने के प्रश्न पर सरकार विचार कर रही है ; और यदि नहीं, तो क्यों ?

परिष्कृत तथा संचार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री भगवती) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) मुस्करा में तारघर खोलने की मंजूरी दी जा चुकी है ।

#### Forest Policy

447. { **Shri H. P. Chatterjee:**  
 { **Shri Ranen Sen:**  
 { **Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is being done to carry out the National Forest Policy;

(b) what is the percentage increase of land under forests in the last two Five Year Plans;

(c) what it will be in the Third Five Year Plan;

(d) what is being done to put the catchment areas of river valley projects under proper afforestation to protect the costly dams and canals, and

(e) what percentage of the catchment areas has been afforested in the last two Five Year Plan periods and what is going to be done in the Third Five Year Plan period?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh):** (a) 'Forest' being a State subject, the responsibility for implementing the National Forest Policy rests on the States. Its working is however, continuously under review by the Central Board of Forestry on which the States are represented at Minister's level.

The Central Government assist the States in the formulation of State Plans for the development of forests when such assistance is asked for. These plans are annually reviewed in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and appropriate recommendations are made to the State Governments.

(b) According to the available statistics, the area under forests went down from 2,77,232 Sq. miles in 1950-51 to 2,71,634 Sq. miles in 1955-56, i.e. by about 2%. This was primarily due to transfer of forest land to other Land Utilisation leads. Figures of area at the end of the 2nd Plan are not yet available.

(c) By the end of the Third Five Year Plan period an area of 8,39,000 acres is expected to be covered by new plantations. Information is, however, not available whether these plantations will be undertaken on the existing forest land or outside the forest areas.

(d) A special centrally sponsored programme for undertaking soil conservation measures in the catchments of the major river valley projects during the Third Five Year Plan has been approved at an estimated cost of about Rs. 11 crores. This provides for various types of works in the catchment areas including afforestation.

Besides this, the State Plans also contain a provision of Rs. 52 lakhs for such measures in such catchments. In order to ensure prompt implementation of this programme in projects covering more than one State, it has been suggested that the concerned States should set up inter-state Boards.

(c) Systematic attention began to be given to this problem only during the Second Plan period, when an area of 2.25 lakh acres was treated under Soil Conservation measures, including afforestation. During the Third Plan period, an area of 10 lakh acres is expected to be covered by such measures in the catchments of the various river valley projects.

#### Movement of Coal on Sundays and Holidays

**448. Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a fall in the movement of coal on Sundays and holidays;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that such a fall affects the overall movement of the coal; and

(c) if so, what measures Government propose to take to guarantee a normal movement of coal on off days?

#### The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy):

(a) and (b). Loading of coal for movement by rail is comparatively less on Sundays/Holidays than on other days of the week. This drop in loading affects the overall movement of coal.

(c) The coal trade and Industry are being constantly persuaded to resort to coal loading on Sundays and Holidays on the same level as on week days.

#### Incentives to Railway Employees

**449.** { **Shri S. B. Das:**  
**Shri Subodh Hansda:**  
**Shri Basumatari:**  
**Shri S. C. Samanta:**

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state: