

since land is needed for other purposes, are the Government satisfied with the attention and finances they have devoted to this work of increasing the number and variety of different grasses that are needed for cattle feeding?

SHRI A. P. JAIN : There is always scope for progress. I cannot claim that we are doing everything that is needed but we are making some efforts.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM : What are the methods of preserving fodder to which the hon. Minister made a reference?

SHRI A. P. JAIN : The hon. questioner is too much of an expert. I am not an expert to that extent.

\*468 and 469. [The questioner (Moulana M. Faruqi) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2880 infra.]

\*470. [Withdrawn.]

#### DEFALCATIONS AND LOSS IN POST OFFICES

\*471. SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO : Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases of defalcations and loss of public money in the various post offices during the year 1955-56;

(b) what is the amount involved in these cases; and

(c) whether the persons responsible for this loss were punished departmentally?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a), (b) and (c). A statement showing the information is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix XIV, Annexure No. 66.]

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO : According to the statement a sum of Rs. 4,38,952 is involved in these cases. May I know whether any portion of the amount has been recovered from the officials concerned?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : Yes; a sum of Rs. 79,354-0 has been recovered so far by way of fines from the delinquent officials.

SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO : What was the departmental action that was taken against those 224 officers?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : It should be from censure to removal, or dismissal. I cannot say for all the cases just now.

\*472. [The questioner (Shri Lalchand Hirachand Doshi) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2880-2881 infra.]

#### DISMISSAL OF WORKER'S FAMILY ON DISCHARGE OF HEAD OF FAMILY IN TEA GARDENS IN NORTH EAST INDIA

\*473. SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the practice followed by the employers of tea gardens in North East India of dismissing and evicting the entire worker's family if the head of the family is discharged by the management; and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered any step to put a stop to this practice?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI) : (a) A complaint to this effect was noticed in the resolution passed in a meeting of some workers of West Bengal.

(b) No steps could be taken because the resolution was of a general nature. Moreover, the Labour Appellate Tribunal has already decided against discharge of working members of a family employed in a tea estate on dismissal of the head of the family. The matter falls in the State sphere and it is for the parties affected to approach the State Governments concerned to take action to put a stop to this practice.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR : Is it not a fact that the judgment of the Labour Appellate Tribunal refers to a case in Assam and that the Tribunals in West Bengal are not following the proposition laid down in the judgment of that Labour Appellate Tribunal?

SHRI ABID ALI : It is true that the case referred to concerned the Assam State but it is the decision of the Labour