

(b) when these committees were appointed;

(c) how many meetings each committee has held up till now; and

(d) whether there are any foreign personnel in these committees; if so, who are they?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a), (b) and (c). I lay on the Table a statement giving the required information. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 27.]

(d) None.

#### LAND RECLAIMED BY C.T.O.

23. SHRI PRASADARAO: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of land reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation in each State in the years 1952-53 and 1953-54; and

(b) the targets fixed in this regard for those States in those years?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): (a) and (b). The required information is given in the statement. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 28.]

#### ISSUE OF WIRELESS LICENCES TO AMATEURS

24. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the number of applications received from amateurs for the issue of wireless licences during the last year and the number of licences issued on such applications?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): Seventeen applications were received during 1953.

Eleven licences have been issued on those applications.

#### LOCUST INVASIONS

25. SHRI PRASADARAO: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of locust invasions in India during each of the last 3 years;

(b) the sources from which these swarms originated;

(c) the districts and the acreage of crops affected by each invasion; and

(d) the extent of damage caused by each invasion in terms of losses of agricultural produce and their estimated values?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): (a) Number of locust invasions in the years 1951, 1952 and 1953 were about 80, 110 and 150 respectively.

(b) West Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and Arabian Peninsula.

(c) Swarm visitations were as under:—

1951—

Rajasthan 13 Districts, Pepsu 6, Punjab 8, Saurashtra 4, Bombay 6, Uttar Pradesh 8, Ajmer, Delhi, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 1, Madhya Bharat 15, Bihar 7, Orissa 1, West Bengal 5 and Assam 2.

1952—

Rajasthan 23 Districts, Punjab (whole), Pepsu 6, Ajmer, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh 10, Vindhya Pradesh 1, Madhya Bharat 7, Bombay 5, Saurashtra 3 and Kutch.

1953—

Rajasthan, Punjab (except Simla), Pepsu, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh 3 Districts, Jammu and Kashmir 1, Ajmer, Delhi, Saurashtra 2, Kutch, Bombay 2, Bhopal 2, Madhya Bharat 8, Vindhya Pradesh 7, Madhya Pradesh 15, Bihar 7, Orissa 5 and West Bengal 3.

Reliable information about acreage of crops affected by locusts is not available.

(d) The loss of agricultural produce caused by locusts in India, as estimated by the various States concerned amounted to 20,400 tons in 1950; 14,350 tons in 1951; 19,150 tons in 1952 and 640 tons in 1953. In terms of cash value of losses can roughly be placed at 1.5 crore of rupees for the period 1950—54.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS FROM EAST PAKISTAN

26. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons from East Pakistan who have so far been employed through the Employment Exchanges;

(b) the number of such persons employed by each Ministry of the Government of India;

(c) the number of such persons who are at present on the waiting lists of the Exchanges; and

(d) what is the nature of preference shown to such persons in offering them appointments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) 39,595 up to June 1954.

(b) The information is not available.

(c) 48,395 on the 30th June 1954; of which 28,047 were displaced persons from East Pakistan.

(d) In the matter of submissions by the Exchanges against Central Government vacancies displaced persons from Eastern and Western Pakistan enjoy a certain degree of priority. A statement showing the priorities prescribed by the Central Government for different categories of employment-seekers is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 29.]

#### TUBEWELL PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

27. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) when the Tubewell Projects Administration started functioning;

(b) the name of the place where its headquarters are located;

(c) what are the main functions of this Administration; and

(d) what is its constitution?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): (a) November 1953.

(b) New Delhi.

(c) and (d). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 30.]

#### OPENING OF POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES

28. SHRI KISHORI RAM: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places where—

(i) new post offices, and

(ii) new telegraph offices,

are to be opened in Bihar in the year 1954-55; and

(b) the expenditure to be incurred in establishing these post and telegraph offices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR):

(a) (i) and (ii). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 31.]

(b) Rs. 2,85,000 (Rupees two lakhs and eighty-five thousand).

#### OPENING OF POST OFFICES

29. SHRI V. M. SURENDRA RAM: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places where new post offices were opened in Madras State in the year 1953-54; and