

be given. I hope the hon. Member will not ask us to allocate some money even if they do not require it.

डाक के जाली टिकट

*८९६ श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली गुप्त-चर विभाग ने डाक के जाली टिकट छापने वाले एक दल का पता लगाया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में कितने व्यक्ति गिरफ्तार किए गए हैं; और

(ग) उन से डाक के कितने टिकट बरामद हुए ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Five persons have been arrested in this connection.

(c) 468 postage stamps of annas-two denomination.

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि इस दल से सम्बन्ध रखने वाले कोई और भी व्यक्ति दंड में पकड़े गये हैं ?

श्री राज बहादुर : अभी सार्व मामले की पुलिस तफ्तीश कर रही है, इसलिये-इस के सम्बन्ध में और कुछ कहना कठिन है ।

Several Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: He has already stated that the matter is under investigation.

Shri B. N. Mishra: Sir, I want to put one question. What is the action which the Government has taken as regards the persons who have been arrested for printing counterfeit postal stamps?

Mr. Speaker: He has already stated that the matter is under investigation. That is the action taken by the Government.

JUTE CULTIVATION

*901. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that jute cultivation has decreased during the current season due to low prices; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to raise the jute prices?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) According to the all-India First Estimate of Jute for 1954-55 the area under jute has increased in the current season by about 5 per cent. over the preceding year.

(b) To improve the prices of raw jute Government are adopting indirect methods of long and short-term nature, e.g. improving the quality of the produce, increase in the yield per acre, bringing about a reduction in the production costs, and stopping of speculative activity. The price of raw jute ultimately depends on the price of jute manufactures fetched in the world market and Government keep a close watch on the conditions affecting India's export trade in jute goods and every possible step is taken to stimulate exports and to increase the competitive ability of the Indian jute manufactures in the overseas markets by way of reduction in export duty and liberalisation of export control.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र.: क्या सरकार किसानों के हित के लिये जूट की भी मिनिमम कीमत तय करने की योजना बना रही है जैसे कि वह गन्नें की मिनिमम कीमत तय करती है ?

श्री किशोरदास : मुश्किल तो यह है कि कुछ शकर हथ बाहर से भी इम्पोर्ट करते हैं इसलिये हम जितनी कीमत चाहें रख दें, लेकिन हमारा जूट का सामान तो बाहर जाता है । अगर वह लोग नहीं खरीदेंगे तो हम कैसे कीमत बढ़ायेंगे ?

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : क्या सरकार जूट को खरीद कर अपने व्यवसाय में लगाना चाहती है और किसानों को ज्यादा कीमत देना चाहती है ?

श्री किडवाई : अभी तक सरकार का यह इरादा नहीं है कि किसानों को ज्यादा कीमत दे कर जूट को खरीदे और कम कीमत पर उस के माल को यहां से बाहर भेजे ।

The L. N. Mishra: The hon. Minister has referred to the question of improving the quality of jute. May I know whether the Government have received any reports from the State Governments about the steps they are taking towards improving the quality of jute? I may inform the hon. Minister that so far as the State Governments are concerned, no steps have been taken to improve the quality of jute.

Shri Kidwai: The hon. Member himself has replied to that question, but I think the information is not correct. We daily receive reports which show that different schemes for improving the quality of jute have been started in West Bengal and in other States, particularly Uttar Pradesh.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know if the Government has made any survey to find out if the actual price prevailing this year is on a par with the cost of production of jute?

Shri Kidwai: It is very difficult to actually find out what is the cost of production of an Indian agriculturist, because I have found that, when in one State the Government attempted to find out the cost of production of wheat, the result was that it was found to be Rs. 80 per maund which nobody could imagine.

PORT AND SHIPPING STATISTICS COMMITTEE REPORT

*902. **Shri Shivananjappa:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Port and Shipping Statistics Committee has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the report will be placed on the Table of the House?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the report will be placed in the Library of Parliament as soon as it is printed.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know what are the main features of the commendation?

Mr. Speaker: He will find them in the report when it is placed in the Library; it is under print.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN ANDHRA

*903. **Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the national highways that pass through the Andhra State;

(b) whether it is a fact that some more roads are proposed to be taken over by the national highways;

(c) if so, the names of such roads; and

(d) the amount that has been sanctioned during the year 1954-55 for the maintenance of the national highways in Andhra State, specifying the allotment for each road?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 3.]

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Rs. 32.00 lakhs. Information regarding the amount ear-marked for each road has not yet been received from the State Government.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: With reference to National Highway No. 7 connecting Benaras and Cape Comorin may I know whether the Government of Andhra have requested the Central Government to construct a bridge over Tungabhadra and if so,