

(c) if so, what alternative arrangements have been made for catering to the needs of the people of those areas?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) A wireless station was opened at Hajo in Assam on 31st December, 1951, in connection with the recent General Elections. The wireless station at Uttarkashi was opened on the 26th May, 1952, for the benefit of the pilgrims during the pilgrim season which ends in October, 1952.

(b) Hajo wireless station was closed on the 28th January, 1952. Uttarkashi wireless station is still working.

(c) There is a telegraph office at Amingaon, 12 miles from Fajo. The other offices in this area are North Lakhimpur and Sadia wireless stations.

LABOUR OFFICERS

***2149. Shri Bhakta Darshan:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any Labour Officers working under the Posts and Telegraphs Department;

(b) if so, what is their number and what are their functions;

(c) whether Government have under consideration any proposal to increase their number; and

(d) whether Government are satisfied that they are doing useful work?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) Nine. A relevant extract of Rule No. 11, of the Labour Officers (Central Pool) Recruitment and Conditions of Service, 1951, which details their duties, is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 25.]

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

TUNDLA-KAS GANJ RAILWAY LINE

***2150. Ch. Raghubir Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a survey for the construction of a railway line from Tundla to Kas Ganj via Etah was ever made; and

(b) whether there is any possibility to revive this survey in near future?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) It is not proposed to undertake any survey in the near future.

IMPORT OF RICE FROM CHINA

***2151. Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ten thousand tons of rice have been recently imported from China; and

(b) if so, how would they be distributed to the various States of India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). We have entered into a contract with the Chinese Government to purchase one lakh metric tons of rice from China. Up to 17-7-52 about 19,300 long tons rice has been received and is being distributed as follows:—

(1) Bombay	3,600
(2) West Bengal	6,100
(3) Madras	7,600
(4) Travancore-Cochin	2,000
	19,300

SHILLONG-AGARTALA ROAD

***2152. Shri S. C. Deb:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shillong-Agartala Road is a National Highway and whether the work on the road is being done accordingly;

(b) what part of it will be new construction and what part will be taken from old road; and

(c) in what stage it is now and when the work will be completed?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) No.

(b) Only the Passi-Badarpur and Churaibari-Agartala sections are entirely new construction. The others are improvement of existing kutcha roads or tracks at different stages of development.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix X, annexure No. 26.]

SHAHADARA-SAHANPUR LIGHT RAILWAY

***2153. Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) if the policy of Government under the new re-grouping and re-