

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to bring down prices of essential food commodities in Tripura;

(d) whether Government are aware that ration cards are not being issued to the rural people, particularly to the hill tribes, and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Prices in Tripura are no doubt high, but are not higher than those in some centres of Assam, West Bengal and Bihar

(b) No Sir

(c) Rice which is the staple food in Tripura is being issued through fair price shops in retail at Rs 18/- per maund. Wheat is also being issued at Rs 16/- per maund

(d) Ration cards are being issued to both urban and rural people including the tribal people wherever necessary

(e) Does not arise

#### Theft in Parcel Office, Cuttack

\*802. Shri B. C. Mullick: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that a packet consisting of about two hundred copies of examination papers held under the Secondary Board of Education, Orissa was stolen from inside the Parcel Office of the Cuttack Railway Station, Orissa,

(b) whether any investigation has been made by the Railway authorities and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c) The Secretary, Board of Secondary Education, Orissa sent a telegram on 13-5-1957 about the non-receipt of a consignment containing Examination Papers despatched from Sambalpur to Cuttack on 6-5-1957. The said officer informed the Railway again on 16-5-1957 that the consignment had

since been received. The delay in delivery is under investigation.

#### Manufacture of Electric Trains

\*803. Shri Gajendra Prasad Shaha: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what progress has been made about the proposal to start manufacture of electric trains for Calcutta and Bombay by the Hindustan Aircraft (Private) Ltd?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): The Hindustan Aircraft (P) Ltd, are negotiating with their prospective collaborators Messrs Hitachi Ltd, Japan and M A N, West Germany for the manufacture of mechanical parts of Electric Multiple Unit in progressive stages as a long term measure. The Project Reports from these firms have not been received

#### Chittaranjan Loco Works

\*804. Shri S. M. Banerjee: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) the number of locomotives manufactured in Chittaranjan during the year 1956-57, and

(b) whether the cost of production has come down?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) 156

(b) Yes

#### Post and Telegraph Facilities in Rajasthan

\*805. Shri J. R. Mehta: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) how many villages with a population of 2,000 or above are still without Post Office facilities in Rajasthan, and how many places with a population of 5,000 or above are without Telegraph facilities, and

(b) whether any time schedule has been worked out in regard to the provision of these facilities?