

Shri Alagesan: I would very respectfully deny the allegation.

Shri L. B. Shastri: I might add one sentence. I received a telegram from the Chief Minister of Bihar—I got it only a few days ago—and he has expressed complete satisfaction with the work done by the North Eastern Railway especially, in regard to the movement of foodgrains and other commodities in that area.

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

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 55.]

(c) and (d). The Committee is expected to submit the report very shortly.

THEFT OF TELEPHONE CABLES

***1061. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some telephone cables were stolen recently from underneath a Central Calcutta Street;

(b) if so, when;

(c) how many and for how much time the connections were out of order;

(d) whether any investigations have been made; and

(e) if so, what are the results thereof?

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

(b) 25th June, 1954.

(c) 172 telephone connections were put out of order. They were set right in one to two days.

(d) The police have made investigations.

(e) The results of the investigations are awaited from the police.

PLANTATIONS LABOUR ACT

***1065. Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether Government propose to assist by way of subsidies the small proprietary plantation estates, so that they are in a position to implement the provisions of Plantation Labour Act, 1951?

The Minister of Labour (Shri K. K. Desai): No, Sir.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

जंगल वाली भूमि

***१०४५. सेठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या साख तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि पिछले १० वर्षों में किन किन राज्यों में जंगल वाली भूमि का क्षेत्र कम हो गया है ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Complete statistics of the area of Forest lands during the last 10 years in various States, are not available. On the basis of available data there does not appear to be any declining tendency of Forest areas visible in any State.

RAILWAY APPRENTICES AND MECHANICS

***1056. Ch. Raghbir Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board appointed a Committee in November 1952 to review the existing facilities for theoretical and practical training to apprentices and mechanics etc.;

(b) if so, the names of the Members of that Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(d) what are its main recommendations?