

- (v) The medical benefits of the Employees' State Insurance Scheme should be extended, as early as may be practicable, to the families of the insured workers.
- (vi) The recommendations made by the Minimum Wages Central Advisory Board regarding wage brackets and area-wise and industry-wise classification should be followed by the State Governments.
- (vii) Simultaneously with the fixation of minimum wages for agricultural workers, steps should be taken to organise cottage and small-scale industries for the benefit of agricultural workers.

Air-freight Charges to Afghanistan

*200. Chaudhuri Muhammed Shafiq: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the air-freight charges per pound from Amritsar to Kandhar (Afghanistan) and *vice versa* during April and May 1955 and August and September, 1955; and

(b) the reasons for the disparity; if any, in freight charges during the said two periods?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) The air-freight charge per pound from Amritsar to Kandhar during April and May 1955 was annas -/13/-. During August and September, 1955 there was no regular scheduled service between Amritsar and Kandhar and only some special flights were run from Amritsar to Kandhar on payment of a lump sum charge for the whole aircraft.

(b) Does not arise as there was no per pound rate of freight during August and September, 1955.

Delhi Transport Service

*203. Shri Dabhi: Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 509 on the 8th August, 1955 and state:

(a) whether the target of 400 buses for the Delhi Road Transport Service has been achieved; and

(b) if so, the extent of improvement achieved in the matter of regularity, punctuality etc. of the Bus Service as a result of increase in the number of buses?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):— (a) Yes, Sir:

(b) There is substantial improvement. The percentage of trips performed to trips scheduled per day has increased from 88 in April 1955 to 94.8 in October.

National Malaria Control Scheme

*207. Shri N. M. Lingam: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the House showing the schemes sanctioned in the Madras State under the National Malaria Control programme and the progress achieved so far in the execution of these schemes?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 57].

Telephones in Bombay

*208. Shri Heda: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telephone connections in the Bombay City;

(b) what is the justification for opening six digit telephones in that city; and

(c) whether any other city is also going to have six digit telephones?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 31,681 on 31st October, 1955.

(b) The maximum number of telephone connections, which can be opened in a 5 digit exchange is about 60,000. Since the number of telephone connections in Bombay is expected to exceed 60,000 in next 5 year's time, the adoption of 6 digit numbering scheme is inevitable.

(c) Calcutta has already a six figure numbering system. There is yet no need to introduce a Six figure System in any other city in India in the next decade or so.

Condensed Milk

*218. Shri R. N. Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been carried on at the Indian Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore on the production of condensed milk under rural conditions; and

(b) if so, the results thereof?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) The trials were of a preliminary nature and the results obtained were not conclusive.