

(b) whether any steps have been taken to put up sign boards in any one of the other national languages also in areas where Hindi is not understood by most of the people; and

(c) whether the Central Government consulted the States Governments of non-Hindi speaking areas about this matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Railways have been instructed to display station name-boards in Hindi in Devnagari script, English and the regional language, if Hindi is not the regional language of the area in which the station is situated. As regards sign-boards and notices other than station name-boards, the individual Railways follow their own practice.

(c) No.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know why in spite of the alleged instructions, we do not find sign-boards in local languages almost in every station, except the station name-boards?

Shri Alagesan: Perhaps the hon. Member refers to name-boards other than station name-boards. In non-Hindi-speaking areas, they are usually in English; they are not being written in the local language.

Dr. Rama Rao: My question was why they are not being written in the local language.

Shri Alagesan: We shall consider it.

सेठ गोविंद दास: क्या सरकार इस बात की तुरन्त व्यवस्था करेगी कि जिन जिन स्थानों की मातृभाषा हिन्दी नहीं है वहाँ हिन्दी के साथ ही वहाँ की भाषाओं के साइन-बोर्ड भी लगा दिये जायें?

रेलवे तथा परिवहन मंत्री (श्री एल० बी० शास्त्री): इस का तो पहले से ही इत्तजाम है। हर जगह स्टेशनों के बारे में हमारा आदेश यह है कि पहले रिजल भाषा में नाम दिया जाय, फिर हिन्दी में और उसके बाद अंग्रेजी में।

TELE-COMMUNICATIONS

***49. Shri Ibrahim:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of officers trained abroad so far in order to keep pace with the latest developments in foreign countries in the field of tele-communications?

The Minister in the Ministry of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): 58.

Shri Ibrahim: May I know the names of countries having tele-communication with India?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is an entirely different question. This question pertains to the officers sent for training in tele-communication, civil aviation and other subjects, to foreign countries.

Shri Telkikar: May I know the numbers of officers trained State-wise?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The officers are in the Central Government and they are drawn from all the States. It is not possible for me to indicate the State of their origin.

FOOD GRAIN PRICES

***50. Shri S. C. Singhal:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the recent increase in prices of food-stuffs and other agricultural commodities;

(b) the steps, if any, taken by Government to reduce the prices;

(c) how much stock of food grains the Government of India and all the State Governments have in their possession; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have started purchasing food grains from foreign countries and what would be their cost at the Indian ports?