

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Reply is in negative.

(b) Does not arise.

FOOD SCARCITY IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT

515. Shri Veeraswamy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is food scarcity in Coimbatore District in Madras State;

(b) whether foodgrains are distributed through fair price shops; and

(c) if so, what is the number of such shops in Coimbatore District?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Scarcity conditions exist in parts of Coimbatore District owing to successive failure of monsoons for the last five years.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir; 852 fair price shops were functioning in the district on 1-11-52, the latest date for which information is available.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS OFFICES (SCHEDULED AREAS)

516. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to establish posts and telegraphs offices or wireless stations in the scheduled areas of Lahaul and Spiti in the Punjab State; and

(b) the number of posts and telegraphs offices in existence in that area and those proposed to be established in the next five years?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No; the population per square mile is only 5 in Lahaul and 1 in Spiti. The areas are snow bound for more than six months in the year. Post Offices cannot be justified either on the basis of local need which is practically non-existent or on the basis of permissible limit of loss which is Rs. 500 per year when the population served by a post office is less than 2,000. A Wireless Station, however, will start functioning shortly at Keylong.

(b)—

	Existing	Proposed to be opened
Post Office	3	Nil.
Telegraph Office	Nil.	One Wireless Station.

AJMER RAILWAY WORKSHOP

517. Shri U. M. Trivedi: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what is the value of material pilfered from the Railway workshop at Ajmer during the years 1950, 1951 and 1952?

(b) What was the value of such pilferages in the years 1940, 1941 and 1942?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to prevent such pilferages?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 1950 readily Rs. 210-4-0

1951 Rs. 291-14-0

1952 Rs. 689-4-0

(b) 1940 Rs. 55-0-0.

1941 Rs. Nil.

1942 Rs. 93-4-0

(c) Proposals are already under consideration for increasing security measures to prevent pilferage by posting higher grade Class III Supervisory Watch and Ward staff at Ajmer Workshop and also by appointing additional Watch and Ward staff to intensify the patrolling of perimeter walls, particularly at night, as well as to ensure patrolling within the shops.

FLAG STATION BETWEEN UNCHAHAR AND LACHHMANPUR

518. Shri B. N. Kureel: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation from public bodies requesting the opening of a Railway Station between Unchahar and Lachhmanpur Railway Stations in the district Rai Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh)?

(b) Is it a fact that an enquiry was made for opening a flag station between Unchahar and Lachhmanpur Railway Stations?

(c) If so, what was the result of the enquiry?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. A representation was received from the District Board in November 1950.

(b) Yes. The proposal was thoroughly examined by the Railway.

(c) The examination revealed that the proposal was not financially justified and it was, therefore, dropped.