

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) Fodder scarcity prevailed, until the summer rains this year, in the States of Ajmer, Bombay (Gujerat area), Delhi, Kutch, Madras (Rayalaseema area), Mysore, PEPHU (Mohindergarh Distt.), Punjab (Hariana tract) Rajasthan, Saurashtra and U. P. (Eastern Districts).

(b) A note describing the measures taken by Government is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes.

(d) Cattle deaths on account of starvation occurred in District Mohindergarh of PEPHU and District Hissar of Punjab, the number involved being 1,200 and 29,056 respectively. A few heads of cattle died of starvation in Rajasthan too but the number is not known. Some deaths occurred in District Gonda of U.P. as well, but these were not directly due to starvation. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 38.]

#### PILFERAGE OF GOODS FROM RUNNING TRAINS

**263. Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in which reports of goods and parcels having been pilfered from running trains were received by different railways during the year 1951-52;

(b) the cases in which goods or parcels were recovered by the Railway Police or any other police;

(c) the cases in which prosecutions started and offenders were brought to book; and

(d) whether railway men were found to be involved in such cases and if so, in which of the cases?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) 5400.

(b) 575.

(c) 401.

(d) Yes, in 150 cases.

#### CARRIAGE OF FOODGRAINS BY RAILWAYS

**264. Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total tonnage of foodgrains carried over by different Railways during the years 1950 and 1951?

(b) What was the weight of foodgrains lost or damaged in transit by rail on which claims were preferred during these years?

(c) What was the total amount of claims preferred by the various State Governments during these years?

(d) What was the amount finally paid by the Railways during this period?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Total tonnage of foodgrains carried by different Railways during the years 1950 and 1951 was 68,77,178 tons and 75,20,804 tons respectively.

(b) The weight of foodgrains lost or damaged in transit by rail on which claims were preferred during the years 1950 and 1951 was 6,508 tons and 7,160 tons respectively.

(c) The total amount of claims preferred by the various State Governments during the years 1950 and 1951 was Rs. 21,02,718 and Rs. 23,45,954 respectively.

(d) Amount finally paid by Railways during the years 1950 and 1951 was Rs. 8,24,857 and Rs. 7,89,428 respectively.

#### GODOWNS

**265. Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of food grains due to want of proper storage in stores under the management of the Central Government during the years 1949, 1950 and 1951; and

(b) the steps taken for improved storage?

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

	1949	1950	1951
Tons		Tons	Tons
	817	405	369

(b) The grain is stored in suitable godowns and disinfection measures and fumigation of infested stocks are carried out systematically to ensure that there is no deterioration. Technical staff has been provided at each centre.

#### EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND SCHEME

**266. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the total number of employees and of what industries who are to get benefit of the employees' provident fund scheme under the Employees' Provident Fund Act?

(b) What are the conditions for the application of this scheme to the factories and what will be the contributions of the employers and the employees?

(c) How will the funds be administered in the Centre and the States?