

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?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) The six industries which are at present covered by the Act are cement, cigarettes, electrical, mechanical or general engineering products, iron and steel, paper and textiles. Accurate information is not available in respect of the total number of employees entitled to the benefits under the Act. It is, however, estimated that the number of such employees is likely to be between 13 and 16 lacs.

(b) The scheme applies to all factories engaged in the industries mentioned in reply to question (a) in which fifty or more persons are employed; except (i) a factory belonging to the Government or a local authority, and (ii) any other factory which is not three years old.

The contribution payable by the employer under the scheme is at the rate of one anna in the rupee of the basic wages and the dearness allowance payable to each employee and the contribution payable by the employee is an equal amount.

(c) The Fund will be administered by a Board of Trustees in the Centre and by similar Boards in the States. The Central Government have, however, taken over the responsibility for the administration of the Fund during the first year, after which, powers are intended to be delegated to the State Governments under Section 19 of the Act.

FOOD GIFTS FROM CHINA AND RUSSIA

267. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether certain private organisations in China and Russia have sent gifts of food-grains and money for relief of distressed areas in Madras and Travancore-Cochin?

(b) If so, how have these gifts been distributed?

(c) What is the total amount of gifts received so far in money and in kind?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes. Certain gifts have been received from private organizations in Russia and China for relief work in distressed areas.

(b) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 39.]

CALCUTTA PORT (CONGESTION)

268. Shri S. C. Samanta: (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what was the amount of imports of all commodities at the port of

Calcutta during the months of June and July, 1952?

(b) What was the corresponding amount of exports in the same period (month by month and commodity-wise)?

(c) What was the average number of vessels that were accommodated daily at the port of Calcutta both for export and import?

(d) What further steps have been taken to meet the congestion of ships at the port?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). Two statements giving the required information are laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 40.]

(d) The congestion in the Port of Calcutta during recent months has been almost entirely due to the rush of shipping for cargoes of coal. The quantity of coal that can be exported through the Port is limited by the wagon supply position and the number of berths with facilities for handling coal. Attention is invited to the reply given by the Minister for Production on the 21st November 1952 to part (b) of the Question No. 554 by Dr. Ram Subhag Singh in which the steps taken to remedy the situation have been indicated.

GODOWNS

269. Shri Dabhi: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of godowns in each State owned by the Central Government meant for the storage of food-grains, their holding capacity and the cost of constructing them;

(b) whether all of them are waterproof and insect-proof;

(c) the number of rented godowns in each State and the monthly rents thereof;

(d) whether the godowns referred to in part (c) above are all waterproof and insect-proof; and

(e) the extent of the deterioration, if any, of the foodgrains stored in the godowns during the year 1952?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 41.]

(b) and (d). They are waterproof but not insect-proof. Bag Storage godowns cannot be made insect-proof.

(e) 448 tons.