

FAILURE OF RAINFALL

270. **Shri T. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing the areas where there has been failure of rainfall and the areas where there has been heavy rainfall resulting in any damage to crops in the year 1952?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): A statement giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 42.]

POST OFFICES (REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE)

271. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Post Offices, or combined Post and Telegraph offices, opened in each of the last five years, ending 31st March, 1952, in each of the Part A, B and C States, and the number of such offices closed down during the same period in the several States and the volume of postal business of the different kinds done in each office; and

(b) the revenue and expenditure of each of these Post Offices, or combined Post and Telegraph Offices, in each of the five years ending 31st March, 1952?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A statement showing the number of Post Offices and Combined Post and Telegraph Offices opened and closed in each of the last five years ending 31st March, 1952 is attached. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 43.]

Regarding the volume of Postal business of different kinds done in each office and the revenue and expenditure of each of these Post Offices or combined Post and Telegraph Offices, in each of the five years ending 31st March, 1952, as more than 16,000 offices were opened during the period the time and expense involved in the collection of this mass of information will not be commensurate with the result.

RAILWAY STORES ENQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

272. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the value of the stores maintained in or for the Railways in each of the last five years, ending 31st March,

1952, and the corresponding value of Railway Stores on the 31st March, 1939; and

(b) the action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Shroff Committee on the purchase, storage, maintenance and allocation of stores to the several Railways?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):

(a) The value of stores held in stock at the end of the last five years ending 31st March 1952 was:—

	Rs.	crores
On 31.3.1948	28.40	
On 31.3.1949	36.44	"
On 31.3.1950	46.65	"
On 31.3.1951	58.13	"
On 31.3.1952	63.32	"

(Provisional)

The corresponding value on 31.3.1939 was Rs. 10.08 crores.

(b) A statement showing the relevant recommendations of the "Shroff Committee" and the action taken thereon is appended. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 44.]

DERAILED WAGONS

273. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the time after which the derailed wagon or wagons thrown off the track are removed; and

(b) whether Government are aware that some derailed goods wagons are lying in ditches between Nayagaon and Sitalpur Railway Stations on the N.E. Railway for the last several months?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):

(a) No specific time limit is laid down as the expedition with which removal of such wagons is arranged depends on the circumstances of each case. They are, however, removed as expeditiously as possible.

(b) After a derailment on 3rd March, 1952, some wagons were left lying by the side of the railway track between Nayagaon and Sitalpur stations and they were cleared on 4th September, 1952. Suitable notice is being taken of the delay in this case.

GONGS BOUND FOR ASSAM

274. **Shri Bell Ram Das:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased