

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Rs. 6.77 lakhs.

(b) No; the fabrication of structural steel work is well in hand.

#### RAILWAY AGENCIES IN RAJASTHAN

**636. Shri Bheekha Bhal:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of out agencies to be opened during the year 1953-54 in Rajasthan;

(b) whether representations from the public and a proposal from the concerned Managers have been received; and

(c) whether the people of Dungarpur District have demanded the establishment of Railway Out-Agency?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Proposals for the opening of out-agencies at Tonk, Begun, Sheoganj, Sumerpur, Dungarpur, Shahpura, and Padampur are being examined by the Railway Administrations in consultation with the local civil authorities.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

#### FIRE IN RAILWAY COLONY AT GAUHATI

**637. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a fire which broke out on the 29th January, 1953 and the 2nd February, 1953, in the Railway colony at Gauhati?

(b) What is the number of Railway workers and their families that have been rendered homeless?

(c) What arrangements have been made for their accommodation?

(d) What steps are being taken to compensate the sufferers for the loss of their belongings?

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

(b) 130 railway workers and a total of 510 individuals, including their families, were affected by the fires on 29th January and 2nd February 1953.

(c) All affected were immediately provided with shelter in the Railway Institute, Railway School and part of the Assistant Engineer's Office. 50 un-serviceable wagons were arranged for from Katihar for providing them with temporary accommodation. The question of constructing permanent accommodation is under examination.

(d) Blankets, utensils and week's free rations were given for immediate relief. One month's advance pay was sanctioned to staff affected by the fires. Clothing for children was arranged and the local authorities also supplied milk and some cloth. Claims for compensation for loss of personal property will be considered in accordance with the rules and regulations.

#### SHEEP-WOOL

**638. Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempts are being made in India to prepare good variety of sheep-wool; and

(b) if so, the places where it is being manufactured?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):**

(a) Yes. The I.C.A.R. has been financing in conjunction with State Governments a regional scheme for sheep and wool development in well-known wool producing areas in India. The aim is to produce rams and ewes which would produce finer quality fleece and higher yield of wool.

(b) (i) *Temperate Himalayan Region.*—The Regional Station is located at Pipalkote in U.P. Hills with a fleece-testing laboratory at Kalsi in Dehra Dun district. Two sub-stations at Banihal Farm in Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.

(ii) *Dry Northern Region.*—Main Station in Rajasthan, with a sub-centre in Joria (Bombay State).

(iii) *Southern Region.*—The main station with a wool research laboratory has been established in Poona and two sub-centres, one in Mysore and the other in Nilgiris (Madras).

(iv) *Eastern Region.*—Main Station in Bihar with a sub-station in Kalimpong (Darjeeling). (To be started this year).

#### U. N. I. C. E. F. (RELIEF AND HEALTH PROGRAMMES)

**639. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state the approximate amount of money spent so far by the U.N.I.C.E.F. toward the various relief and health programmes in India?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** A statement containing the necessary information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 38]. This information was also furnished in reply to