

(b) the total number of posts which had fallen vacant in different categories, zone-wise, since the introduction of the Zonal System, which have not been filled?

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

(b) The information is being collected.

GOODS PURCHASED FROM FOREIGN COMPANIES

306. Shri T. S. A. Chettiar: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of orders placed on foreign companies in the years 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53;

(b) what are the kinds of goods for which these orders have been placed; and

(c) whether any attempt has been made to meet these needs in India itself?

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

1949-50 ... 19.41 crores.

1950-51 ... 18.37 "

1951-52 ... 29.32 "

Figures for 1952-53 are not available as the year is not yet over.

(b) A list showing the kinds of articles imported is attached. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 33].

(c) Yes.

FUEL ECONOMY COMMITTEE

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

(a) whether the Fuel Economy Committee has submitted its Report;

(b) if so, what are the important recommendations made by it; and

(c) whether the Report has been considered by Government and decisions taken thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). As already indicated in the budget speech the final report of the Railway Fuel Economy Enquiry Committee has just been received by Government and the recommendations made by that Committee are under scrutiny. In due course the more important of these recommendations and the action taken by Government thereon will be made available to Members of Parliament.

TRAINING CENTRES

308. Shri K. G. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state what is the nature of the course of study provided in the Training Centres under the Ministry of Labour?

(b) Are students admitted to this course awarded any scholarship during the period of training?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Training is imparted in engineering and building trades and also cottage and small-scale industries.

(b) Yes. Scholarships are awarded to about 50 per cent. of the trainees.

EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

309. Shri K. G. Deshmukh: (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state the number of applicants registered for services with the offices of Employment Exchanges at Nagpur and Amravati respectively in the year 1952-53?

(b) How many applicants were provided with services during the same period?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) Number of applicants registered during the period April, 1952—January, 1953 was:—

Nagpur	18,269
Amravati	8,155

(b) Number placed in employment during the same period was:—

Nagpur	3,702
Amravati	1,534

FOREST PRODUCTS

310. Shri Jhulan Sinha: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer to unstarred question No. 525 given on the 10th December 1952 and state the steps taken to increase the production of the chief forest products and their export?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Attention of State Governments has been drawn to this matter.

SEASONED TIMBER

311. Shri Jhulan Sinha: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the steps taken or being taken to increase the supply of seasoned timber to relieve shortage of steel for structural purposes and for purposes of telegraph poles etc.?