

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). There is an unbridged river between Sagwara and Garhi. The mails from Sagwara were being routed via Udaipur, Chitorgarh, Ratlam and Dohad, and were being delivered at Garhi on the fifth day. As a result of the introduction of a ferry service across the river from 1st July, 1952, mails are being delivered on the next day.

CEREALS

472. Shri K. P. Tripathi: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cereals supplied to managements of tea industry in 1951 from imported sources (State wise);

(b) whether the cereal so supplied was subsidised; and

(c) if so, the amount involved (State wise)?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar): (a) The quantity of foodgrains supplied to the tea gardens in Assam and West Bengal from imported sources during 1951 were:

Assam—64,352 tons.

West Bengal—53,182 tons.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

LOTTERY FORMS AND CIRCULARS

473. Shri V. G. Deshpande: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rule No. 153 of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Manual Volume V, (read with Clause No. 96 of the Posts and Telegraphs Guide) is applicable to the lottery forms and other circulars relating to lotteries being circulated by post throughout India; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the postal authorities to enforce this rule?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Whenever any infringement of the rule is detected, the article is returned to the sender, as prescribed in the rules.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS

474. Shri M. Islamuddin: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number and location of Training Centres for training telephone operators;

(b) the number of trainees each year in each of these Centres during last three years; and

(c) the period of training?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 41.]

PUBLIC CALL OFFICE

475. Shri K. S. Gounder: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) what are the general requirements for opening of a new Public Call Office in Telegraph Office in rural area; and

(b) whether there are proposals or possibilities of opening new Public Call Offices in the towns of Theni, Periyakulam, Bodinayakanur, Cumbum, Chinnamanur and Usilampatti in Madurai District, Madras State?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) It is the policy of the Department to open a Public Call Office at each place where the population is more than 20,000 subject to the availability of funds and the project being remunerative.

(b) It is proposed to open Public Call Offices at Theni and Bodinayakanur and an exchange at Periakulam during the current financial year. The proposal to open a Public Call Office at Usilampatti is under examination.

Regarding Cumbum and Chinnamanur, the demand for telephone facilities from these places is not appreciable and it is anticipated that the Department would suffer heavy loss if Public Call Offices were opened there. So it is not proposed to include them in the Department's programme for opening public call offices unless the State Government or private parties offer guarantees against the anticipated losses.