

1952, and the sowings of 1952-53 crop are due to start in October-November 1952 only. Therefore, neither the 1951-52 estimates have been finalised nor can it be said at this stage as to what the acreage in 1952-53 will be.

According to the 1951-52 First Estimate of Potato, the acreage under the crop was 523 thousand acres and this was 5,000 acres more than the 1950-51 First (Adjusted) Estimate.

Shri M. Islamuddin: May I know which State produces the largest quantity of potatoes and which State the best quality?

Shri Kidwai: I have not got the figures State-wise, but I think Bihar produces the largest quantity.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know what steps are being taken by Government to increase its cultivation?

Shri Kidwai: With regard to potatoes, there is no difficulty in getting any quantity in the market. The problem is of improving the quality. Government have got research institutes for this purpose and they have adopted various measures to help the cultivator to produce better quality of potatoes.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

Short Notice Question and Answer

IMPROPER STORAGE OF FOODGRAINS IN BOMBAY

Shri Pataskar: Will the Minister for Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that considerable portion of American wheat unloaded in Bombay is being damaged owing to improper storage and the heavy rains in Bombay; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken or has been taken to prevent this damage and for proper storage?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). On the 13th June 1952 when during one hour there was a heavy downpour of 4½ inches, water percolated through the roofs and valley gutters of the Sewri godowns and affected the bottom layers of the stacks inspite of the bags being covered by tarpaulins. The wet grain is being reconditioned but it is estimated that about 60 tons of grain will remain damaged. This godown which had to be used owing to severe pressure on godown space has since been vacated.

The hon. Member is aware of the heavy pressure which has been put on the storage available to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. A very large amount of additional godown storage space has had to be hired or acquired. Some of these godowns needed repairs. Every effort is being made to carry out effective repairs. I have appointed a Panel of Storage experts to go round the godowns where large quantities are stored to help in the immediate improvement of storage conditions.

Shri Pataskar: Were these godowns repaired just before the monsoons?

Shri Kidwai: They were hired or acquired just before the monsoons.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it true that three new godowns were ordered to be constructed under the orders of your predecessor, and were they not ready for goods to be stored therein?

Shri Kidwai: It is true that when we found that we would have a larger stock than our storage capacity could accommodate, some godown space was hurriedly hired or acquired and new construction was ordered for three godowns.

Shri Dabhi: Were these hired godowns properly inspected before foodgrains were stored therein?

Shri Kidwai: We had not much choice and whatever we could get we had to acquire with the hope that we would be able to repair and put them in good condition for storage.

Shri S. S. More: May I know what is the total quantum of the damage done?

Shri Kidwai: I have said it is about 60 tons.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the authorities concerned have been negligent in this matter to any degree?

Shri Kidwai: I have explained that owing to pressure, we had to acquire certain godowns, and we had to accept them in whatever condition they were. These godowns, most of them, are working satisfactorily, but as I have said, a party of experts is going round seeing every godown, every storage, to see what can be done.

Shri B. S. Murthy: My question is not that.

Mr. Speaker: He has explained that circumstances had forced them to take whatever they could get. There was no choice for them. That is what he said in the first part of his reply.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether those concerned anticipated the downpour of rain and whether there has been any negligence?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. His question was with reference to negligence. He is now putting it a little differently.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Was it not possible for the Government to get these 60 tons of wheat distributed among the people on the day it was drenched by water?

Shri Kidwai: After the heavy downpour, the godown was immediately inspected, and it was found that all of them was not damaged. The water came from below and damaged some wheat. The wheat so damaged was immediately taken out.

Shrimati Jayashri: May I know Sir whether this damaged wheat was in a fit condition for human consumption.

Shri Kidwai: That portion which was fit for human consumption was taken out, and after being dried, was distributed. Sixty tons have been found to be unfit for any use.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: What is the amount of grain stored in Bombay?

Shri Kidwai: I will require notice for it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

यात्रियों को सुविधायें

*१४७३. सेठ गोविन्द दास : (क) : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि १९५१-५२ वर्ष में सारी रेलों पर यात्रियों को सुविधायें प्रदान करने में कितनी राशि व्यय की गयी ?

(ख) सुविधाओं की मुख्य मदें क्या हैं ?

(ग) क्या प्लेटफार्मों और यात्रियों के प्लेटफार्मों के ऊपर छदकों (शेड) की व्यवस्था भी सुविधाओं में गिनी जाती है ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The expenditure during 1951-52, booked so far, is Rs. 2,35,28,000.

(b) Details of the principal items of amenities provided during 1951-52 are given in the Pamphlet 'Towards Better Conditions of Travel' circulated to the Members of the House with Budget Papers.

(c) Provision of sheds over passenger platforms is treated as a passenger amenity but provision of new passenger platform in an existing station is not classified as such. Extension, raising, widening and surfacing of existing passenger platforms, however, come under the category of passenger amenity works.

मध्यम श्रेणी और तीसरी श्रेणी के डिब्बे

*१४७४. सेठ गोविन्द दास : (क) क्या रेल मंत्री मध्यम श्रेणी और तीसरी श्रेणी के डिब्बों में अब तक लगाये गये पंखों की संख्या बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे ?

(ख) मध्यम और तीसरी श्रेणी के कितने डिब्बों में अभी पंखे लगाने बाकी हैं ?

(ग) क्या कोई ऐसा कार्यक्रम निश्चित किया गया है, जिस में यह लक्ष्य रखा गया हो कि इतने समय के भीतर तीसरी श्रेणी के सभी डिब्बों में पंखे लगा दिये जायेंगे, और यदि रखा गया है तो कितना ?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) About 4,600 in Inter and about 12,400 in III.

(b) About 300 Inter Class coaches and about 2000 Third Class coaches of those selected for fitting. It is not proposed to fit up coaches due scrapping shortly.

(c) The coaches are fitted up as they come in for overhaul. In view of the shortage, they are not withdrawn from use only for this purpose. New coaches incorporate all the features of the improved standard adopted—viz., 12 fans, a coach, better lighting and better sanitary and other facilities.

पर्यटक (टूरिस्ट)

*१४७७. सेठ गोविन्द दास : (क) क्या यातायात मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि १९५१ में और इस वर्ष में अब तक विदेशों से भारत में आये पर्यटकों की संख्या क्या है ?

(ख) इस स्रोत से अजित डालरों की राशि क्या है ?