

Wheat Destroyed in West Bengal

*448. { Shri Subiman Ghose:
Shri C. K. Bhattacharyya:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 10,000 maunds of wheat were damaged recently in the yard of the Asansol Railway Station;

(b) if so, the causes thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that this wheat was imported from Australia; and

(d) the foreign exchange expended for such import?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain): (a) No, Sir. Only sixty-three bags (approximately weighing 121 maunds) of wheat were damaged.

(b) The damage was caused by rain after unloading.

(c) No, Sir. It was American wheat.

(d) The wheat was imported under P.L. 480 Agreement from U.S.A. and was to be paid for in rupees

Agricultural Administration Committee

*450. { Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri N. E. Munsamy:
Shri Panigrahi:
Shri Sanganna:
Shri Supakar:
Shri Subbiah Ambalam:
Shri Tridib Kumar
Chaudhuri:
Shri Sarju Pandey:
Shri Sadhan Gupta:
Shri Ashar:
Shri Bimal Ghose:
Shri Hem Barua:
Shri M. C. Jain:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee set up by Government under the Chairmanship of Raja Surendra Singh

of Nalagarh for studying the agricultural situation has submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the chief features of that report; and

(c) whether Government have decided to implement that report?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. F. Jain): (a) and (b). The Committee was appointed to study the Agricultural Administration and the working of the Agriculture Departments in the States and not the agricultural situation in the country. It has submitted its report which has already been placed on the Table of the House.

(c) The report has been sent to the State Governments who are principally concerned with the recommendations for implementing such of the recommendations as may be considered feasible. Action on a few of the recommendations in which the Government of India are interested, would be initiated after receiving the views of the State Governments on such recommendations.

Development of Minor Ports

*451. { Shri Sambandam:
Shri N. E. Munsamy:
Shri Panigrahi:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Harbour Board at its meeting held in Madras recently discussed the question regarding development of minor ports in the country;

(b) if so, what are the specific recommendations made;

(c) whether the Government of Orissa were represented in the Board meeting; and

(d) if so, whether the Government of Orissa have submitted any proposals for development of their minor ports?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications