

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

(Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 70].

Price of Rice

*452. Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Food Ministers of Southern Rice Zone was held in New Delhi on the 7th November, 1958;

(b) if so, the nature of the meeting and the decisions taken; and

(c) whether it is a fact that price of rice has increased considerably in Madras State?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) and (b). A meeting of the Food Ministers of the States comprising the Southern Rice Zone was held in Delhi on the 7th November, 1958 to review the working of the Zone. Various matters were discussed, and it was decided to intensify anti-smuggling measures and to create a five-mile no-movement belt along the border of the Southern Rice Zone with the State of Bombay.

(c) Yes, Sir. There has been some rise in the prices of rice in Madras State.

Palam Airport

595. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to expand and modernise the Palam Airport, Delhi?

The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin): A scheme for the construction of a new runway (10,500 ft x 150 ft.) at Palam Airport for use by Jet transport aircraft has recently been approved by Government. This project is estimated to cost Rs. 180 lakhs (approximately).

Post Offices

596. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices of all categories, telegraph offices, public call offices opened with names of places, during the First Five Year Plan period in the Gurdaspur district in the Punjab State:

(b) the number opened during the Second Five Year Plan period so far; and

(c) the number to be opened during the remaining period of the Second Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 71].

(b) Opened upto 31st October, 1958:

- (1) Post offices of all categories
- (2) Telegraph Offices
- (3) Public Call Offices

(c) (1) Post offices of all categories

- * (2) Telegraph Offices
- * (3) Public Call Offices

*Note — Further proposals, if any, will be sanctioned if found justified.

Recommendations of Air Transport Council

597. { Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri Ram Krishan:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 613 on the 20th August, 1958 and state:

(a) whether Government have since implemented all the recommendations made by the Air Transport Council;

(b) if not, the nature of recommendations not implemented so far; and