

the agents of the German firm in India.

(b) The common name of the drug is Iso-nicotinic Acid Hydrazide but the manufacturers, Messrs. Schering A. G. of Berlin, sell it under the trade name of ERTUBAN.

(c) Clinical trials have been conducted from samples of the drug received from other firms and the results of these trials have already been indicated in the reply to starred question No. 186 dated the 11th November, 1952.

#### SHELLAC

\*610. **Shri C. E. Chowdary:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what was the total production of shellac in India in the last three years?

(b) What was the total export of shellac during the same period and to which countries was it exported?

(c) What is the new use, if any, to which shellac is now put in India?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 42]

(c) A new use has been discovered according to which shellac dissolved in dilute ammonia is applied on semiporous or porous earthenware. After 3 to 4 applications the vessels are dried and backed at 130-140°C for 4 to 5 hours. This treatment renders the vessels resistant to hot water, oils, salts, dilute soap solutions, etc. Earthenware thus coated has been found to be more suitable for collecting palmyra (neera). Coated plates have also been used in place of conventional plates for serving food as they stand washing and therefore can be used repeatedly. Coated vessels can also be used for keeping salts, oils, gur, pickles and other domestic articles of every day use.

#### HELICOPTER

\*611. **Shri Radha Raman:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether India possesses any helicopter; and

(b) if so, whether Government have any scheme of introducing this type of aeroplane in India for either defence or civil use?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) No.

(b) Proposals are under consideration for obtaining one or two Helicopters for use in search and rescue operations in areas where surface communication is difficult and for anti-locust operations.

#### RAILWAY BRIDGE OVER TONSE RIVER

\*612. **Shri R. N. Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an M.L.C., U.P., a former member of the Local Advisory Committee (O.T. Zone) in one of its meetings suggested the construction of a permanent passage for the pedestrians and vehicular traffic, through the Railway bridge over Tonse river between Chil Barazaon and Phephna by extending the breadth of the bridge;

(b) if so, what steps were taken by the then committee on the above-noted suggestions; and

(c) whether Government will consider the matter and take necessary steps?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahawaz Khan):** (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The suggestion that the breadth of the bridge should be extended to take road traffic is impracticable.

#### DECONTROL OF FOODGRAINS

\*613. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether all controls have been lifted on foodgrains;

(b) whether the Planning Commission's Advisory Body advised Government against such a step;

(c) whether the earlier decontrol in Madras led to a rise in prices;

(d) whether it is a fact that we have an overall deficit of foodgrains in India; and

(e) whether Government wish to leave the question of food imports from abroad to private traders?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) No.