

that the compound is being infested and gave an assurance that a compound wall will be built? If so, may I know why this proposal has been dropped?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: A sum of Rs. 7,314 has already been sanctioned for the construction of the compound wall and the work will be started very early.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know the reason why after 1951 it was not taken up, and the hon. Minister is answering me, in part (a) of the question, that it is not being infested?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The only case of leprosy that occurred in the school was in April 1950 when one peon of the school, who was living one mile away, was found to be infested with the disease. He was admitted to a leprosy clinic and in September 1951 he was declared medically fit and non-infectious. But after three months he again developed signs of leprosy and he has been sent to a leprosy clinic. That is the only case.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Will my hon. friend take the trouble to enquire whether it is not a fact that the peon who was infested with the disease was living in the school compound at night, and not one mile away?

The Deputy Minister of Transport and Railways (Shri Alagesan): We can make enquiries, Sir, but this is our present information.

INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT

*894. **Shri Keshavaipengar:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state when the International Wheat Agreement entered into by India will expire?

(b) Is it being renewed?

(c) If so, for how many years is it being renewed?

(d) What is the value of wheat imports from 1948 onwards?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa):
(a) The International Wheat Agree-

ment entered into by India in 1949 expired on the 31st July, 1953.

(b) It has already been renewed with effect from the 1st August, 1953.

(c) For 3 years i.e., from the 1st August, 1953 to the 31st July, 1956.

(d) The value of wheat imported during the calendar years 1948 to 1953 is as follows:—

Year	Amount in Lakhs of Rupees
1948	46.76
1949	74.88
1950	47.23
1951	141.14
1952	128.44
1953 (Jan.-June)	39.92

Some Hon. Members: The last figures, we are not able to follow.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: From January to June, Rs. 39.92 lakhs.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister was referring to 1958.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: 1953; I am sorry.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether in the International Wheat Agreement, there is any quality specification?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): No. It is open to us to purchase any quality that we like.

Shri Gopala Rao: May I know what are the rates fixed for the purchase in comparison with the last agreement rates: the maximum and minimum?

Shri Kidwai: The maximum this year has been raised from \$1.80 to \$2.05. The present market price is \$1.81. Therefore, it is almost the same as last year. Last year, they were charging something for carrying charges. It has been included in the price this year. Just now we will get it cheaper than we got last year.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In view of the fact that the stock of wheat has been piling up with the Central Government, do Government propose to import the full quota allotted to India by the International Wheat Agreement?

Shri Kidwai: We have already reduced it. Our quota was 15 lakh tons. It has been reduced to 10 lakh tons.

Shri V. P. Nayar: The hon. Minister was reading out figures of the value paid for foodgrains. May I know the corresponding figures for freight paid as also, if possible, the break-up for foreign and Indian shipping?

Shri Kidwai: If a separate question is put, we will supply the information.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This question relates to the International Wheat Agreement.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether it is a fact that American ships enhanced the freight considerably to transport these foodgrains to India?

Shri Kidwai: It was not always the American ships that were bringing wheat to India.

Shri Raghaviah: In view of the statement made by the Deputy Minister some time back that we have attained self-sufficiency in food this year, may I know the reason for importing this wheat? May I know whether this import up to 1956 means that we will be deficient in foodstuffs?

Shri Kidwai: We never claimed that we have become self-sufficient. Even before the war, we were importing 15 lakh tons of rice from Burma and some wheat. Our imports are being reduced every year. As I have said, we have contracted for the import of only one million tons of wheat. Perhaps we will not import any rice.

श्री गोबिन्द दास : क्या जैसा अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि १५ लाख टन थे अब उन्होंने यह तै किया है कि हम दस लाख टन ही मंगायेंगे। क्या निकट भविष्य में और भी घटने की सम्भावना है ?

श्री किवर्दी : यह १५ लाख टन तो हम इंटर नेशनल व्हीट ऐग्रीमेंट में खरीदते थे और उसके अलावा बहुत सा गेहूँ हम ओपिन मार्केट में खरीदते थे जिसके दाम बहुत होते थे।

इस साल हमने सिर्फ इंटरनेशनल व्हीट ऐग्रीमेंट का गेहूँ मंगाया था और आयन्दा साल से उसको भी घटा कर दस लाख टन कर दिया है।

Shri Punnoose: In answer to a supplementary question, whether in the International Wheat Agreement there is any quality specification, he replied that you can choose anything you like. If that is so, may I know why there was a complaint that large quantities of imported wheat were useless?

Shri Kidwai: I can only say that at that time, over and above what we purchased under the International Wheat Agreement, we were purchasing large quantities. We found that the persons who were responsible for inspection made some mistakes and we got wheat that we should not have got.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: What amount of wheat is lying with the various Governments and what quantity of it is already rotten?

Shri Kidwai: We will require notice.

Shri Gopala Rao: What is the mechanism through which we can inspect the wheat that is imported in our country? Is there any mechanism?

Shri Kidwai: We have got a Purchasing Mission there in Washington and they arrange for this inspection.

Shri Gopala Rao: That means no representative of the Indian Government?

Shri Kidwai: They are under the Government of India.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know what methods are adopted or procedure is followed to find out whether the same quality of wheat for which agreement has been entered is sent to India?

Shri Kidwai: The agreement is about the quantity. It is open to us to purchase the best or the worst.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: What steps are being taken against these:

who are responsible for purchasing the wheat that has been spoiled?

Shri Kidwai: No steps are being taken.

Shri Dabhi: The hon. Minister said that we want to import some wheat, at least, one million tons, from outside while we do not want to import any rice. Then, how is it that the Government want to remove the control on wheat while they want to continue the control on rice?

Shri Kidwai: Because we have sufficient wheat to provide every one according to his requirements while rice that we are producing is just more than sufficient to meet our rationing commitments. If we allow it to be sold freely, then, the prices will go up because it is still short of our requirements. The wheat that we are importing is being used as a substitute for rice in rice-eating areas.

Shri Dabhi: Why do we not import rice from outside?

Shri Kidwai: The outside prices are too high for our requirements.

EXPANSION OF DESERT AREAS

*895. **Shri A. N. Vidyalkar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the financial provision made by Government in the budget for the year 1952-53 to arrest the expansion of the desert areas has mostly remained unutilised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) and (b). The budget provision had to be revised due to:—

(1) delay in obtaining financial sanction of the scheme;

(2) unavailability of trained technicians; and

(3) difficulty in obtaining land.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: May I know the areas where steps are being taken to check the expansion of desert and

how much has been spent this year and with what results?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The area is across the Pakistan-Hindustan border: 400 miles in length and 5 miles width. A five mile deep belt of forest has to be raised in that area. According to our scheme there was a provision for Rs. 2,32,000, we spent about Rs. 70,000 last year.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: I was asking about this year.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There is a provision for Rs. 4 lakhs; we hope to spend more than what has been provided for.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: What has been already spent and with what results?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I cannot give the figures. What we spend this year we will be able to know only at the time of the Budget.

Shri Jangde: May I know the total area and the total population in the actual desert where nothing is grown?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): That information cannot be got out of this question. We would require notice.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the rate at which the desert areas are expanding annually and apart from measures for the arrest of expansion of the desert, whether the provision in the Budget includes schemes for reclamation and arrest of soil erosion in the desert areas?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is an accepted fact, that the desert is on the march, and in its onward march, it is said that it is approaching Delhi at the rate of half a mile per year. We had appointed an *ad hoc* committee and they have gone into the matter and have submitted a report. We are spending money according to the recommendations in that report. It is expected that if we execute the recommendations of this committee, we will be able to arrest the onward