

(b) whether it is a fact that the Tribunal had asked the Bihar Government to make an alternative arrangement for its sitting if any court-room of the High Court was not available and the latter had accordingly made arrangements; and

(c) if so, the reasons for changing the sittings of the Tribunal from Patna to Calcutta?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) In connection with a request to secure reservation of accommodation in the High Court Buildings at Patna the Tribunal informed Government that it proposed to hold sittings at Patna from the middle of November, 1953.

(b) and (c). The Tribunal has been requested to furnish this information.

IMPORTED WHEAT

***748. Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of imported wheat lying unsold in India at present and its value;

(b) the period of storage of these stocks;

(c) the rate of off-take of wheat at present; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to accelerate disposal of the stocks?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The unallotted stocks with the Government of India on 1st December, 1953 amounted to about 540 thousand tons valued at about Rs. 22.79 crores.

(b) The bulk of the stocks was received in the central depots during the months May to November, 1953, though some quantities also pertain to earlier months.

(c) About 150 thousand tons per month.

(d) The question of accelerated disposal arises only in the case of that

part of the stock which cannot stand much longer storage, but the bulk of the stocks is meant to cover requirements of the next few months and to operate as a reserve.

RAW JUTE

***749. Pandit C. N. Malviya:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what steps Government propose to take to implement the recommendations made by the Expert Committee on quality of Jute?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A statement indicating the steps proposed to be taken to implement the recommendations made by the Expert Committee on Quality of Jute is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 9.]

RAILWAY TIME TABLE

***750. Shri S. C. Deb:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the authorities have received some complaints regarding such major changes in the time table of October, 1953 of some of the railway lines of Assam Zone of the N.E. Railway and whether the authorities propose to consider the removal of any genuine grievances by revising the time table in question?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): Yes, Sir. The revision of timings of train services on the Pandu Region will be considered for the April, 1954 Time-Table for which proposals are being examined.

SALE OF QUININE THROUGH POST OFFICES

***751. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the practice of selling quinine through village post offices for the benefit of poor people in villages has been discontinued and if so, since how long?

(b) What reasons is this due to?