

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know whether the Government are aware that these offices are very congested?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** That is why we have taken up the proposals for extension of the present buildings and for putting up new buildings.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** May I know if it is in the contemplation of the Government, as an interim measure, to purchase or hire some of the palaces of the Rajpramukh which are lying vacant?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is a suggestion for action. Next question.

R. M. S. VANS

**\*1006. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the sorters are put to a considerable difficulty due to inadequate lighting in the R.M.S. vans that run on the ex-Nizam State Railway Sector of the Central Railway and that there are no sorting boards in some vans?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken to relieve the staff from this hardship?

**The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) No difficulty is experienced generally at present on account of inadequate lighting or want of sorting cases in regular mail vans. These difficulties are experienced only by a few R.M.S. Sections which work in III class compartments on account of paucity of mail vans.

(b) Steps are being taken to have sufficient number of mail vans constructed as quickly as possible to overcome the difficulty of which the Government is fully aware.

**Shri Muniswamy:** In view of the fact that the question of providing facilities in the R.M.S. vans for the sorters to take rest is being considered, may I know whether the question of providing such facilities is under consideration both for metre gauge and broad gauge sections?

**Shri Raj Bahadur:** Our task is divided into two parts: relieving the paucity of the number of mail vans and secondly, improving the design. Our attention is focussed on both.

#### IMPORTED WHEAT

**\*1007. Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the editorial column of the *Bombay Sentinel*, dated the 16th October, 1953, regarding the supply of bad quality of imported wheat to the ration shops in Bombay, Poona, Surat and other places in that State?

(b) Is it a fact that the Civil Supplies Minister, Bombay State, stated at a press conference that the quality of wheat was bad and its keeping capacity was poor?

(c) Had the same quality of wheat been supplied to other States?

(d) How was the bad quality wheat imported?

**The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnaappa):**

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes, Sir. He also assured the public that suitable measures would be taken to see that it was thoroughly cleaned before issue.

(c) Yes.

(d) Wheat of fair average quality and of standard specifications is imported from foreign countries after it is duly inspected in those countries and all possible efforts are being made to preserve the wheat on its arrival in India. Owing to rapidly improved food position in the country, the demand for wheat has declined, resulting in slower offtake of stocks of wheat from the Central Government's Depots. The stocks that arrived earlier, naturally, show some deterioration of quality through age and it is these stocks that have been referred to, as bad; though no wheat that is not wholesome and fit for human consumption, is issued from the depots.