

**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.

**Shri Gidwani:** How many tons of this wheat are still lying in the various godowns in the country?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** We have got about 6 lakh tons in all the Central Government depots.

**Shri Gidwani:** What is the total quantity of wheat of the quality which deteriorates after 8 days as stated by Shri Chevan, the Civil Supplies Minister of Bombay?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** All the wheat is of good quality. It has not deteriorated. We have grouped the stock into four categories, A, B, C and D. Category A will have a keeping quality of 4 months. Category B will have a keeping quality of 2 months. After 2 months, if given a cleaning, we can keep that for one month more. None of them is unfit for human consumption.

**Dr. Suresh Chandra:** The hon. Minister said that the quality of the wheat is being checked in those countries. What machinery have we got there to inspect the quality?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** There are some international firms which certify the quality.

**Dr. Suresh Chandra:** What is our machinery in these countries to check the quality of the wheat?

**Shri Kidwai:** These firms are employed by the importing countries.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I know whether the imported wheat is of inferior quality than the indigenous varieties and the prices are higher than those of indigenous varieties?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** Yes. Always our people prefer the indigenous varieties and they say that the imported varieties are inferior.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** May I know if, with the present rate of off-take, there is any hope of the whole stock of wheat being taken up before the entire quantity becomes unfit for human consumption?

**Shri Kidwai:** Care will be taken to see that the whole quantity does not become unfit for human consumption.

**श्री पी० एन० राजभोज :** मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो राशन में खराब अनाज मिलता है, उसको हफ्ते भर खाने से कितनी डीसेंटी और दूसरी दूसरी बीमारियाँ होती हैं और क्या आप कह सकते हैं कि ऐसा खराब गेहूँ खाने से आदमी बीमार नहीं पड़ेगा ?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** They want to see that nothing goes to waste.

**Pandit S. C. Mishra:** What will be the age of the oldest wheat in the Government godowns?

**Shri Kidwai:** In 1951 we imported 47 lakh tons of wheat. Since then, our carry-over has been increasing. This year we imported a lesser quantity than was contemplated. The carry-over this year will be less than what it was before.

**Pandit S. C. Mishra:** I wanted to know whether the oldest stock is of 1951 or whether even earlier stocks exist.

**Shri Kidwai:** We have been importing wheat for so many years. It is difficult to say.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What he wants to know is.....

**Shri Kidwai:** I know what he wants to know. I can't tell him what he wants to know.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** In answer to part (b) of the Question it has been stated that the wheat imported was of standard quality, and that Government are taking steps to clean the bad wheat. May I know what amount of further deterioration or adulteration was there as a result of keeping or in the wheat originally imported?

**Shri Kidwai:** I think the hon. Member has misunderstood the question.

**Shri T. N. Singh:** Answer.

**Shri Kidwai:** Question. There are standards, first class, second class, third class and 4th class.

The imports were according to these standards.

**Shri Muniswamy:** May I know whether any research is being carried on in order to produce new varieties of wheat in our country?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** We have succeeded in evolving new varieties of wheat.

**Shri Radhelal Vyas:** May I know whether the deterioration of wheat was also due to the pouring of rain water in the newly constructed godowns, constructed at a cost of lakhs of rupees, in Bombay?

**Shri Kidwai:** Whether it is lakhs or thousands, I cannot say. In reply to a question, it has been stated already that in Bombay there was some such loss.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** May I know the maximum period up to which wheat can be kept without deterioration and the quantity of wheat now with Government that has been kept for a period longer than this maximum period?

**Shri Kidwai:** It is difficult to lay down a hard and fast rule about it. In some cases it can be kept for four years; in some cases—it depends upon the climate—it cannot be kept for more than two years.

**Shri Syed Ahmed:** One question, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I have allowed enough. Next question.

#### PORT AND SHIPPING STATISTICS COMMITTEE

\*1008. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state when the Port and Shipping Statistics Committee was appointed by Government?

(b) How many meetings of the Committee have been held so far?

(c) what stations have been visited by the Committee so far?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):**

(a) On 7th May, 1953.

(b) One.

(c) The Chairman and Secretary of the Committee have visited Calcutta, Visakhapatnam, Madras, Cochin, Rajkot, Kandla and Bhuj.

**Shri Buchhikotaiah:** May I know whether any report was submitted by the Committee?

**Shri Alagesan:** They are still at their work. They will be submitting their report in a few months' time.

**Shri Radha Raman:** May I know, Sir.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The report has still to be presented.

#### ELECTRIFICATION OF INDUSTRIAL BELT AREA.

\*1009. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the progress of work done so far by the team of officers who were appointed by the Railway Board to make a detailed survey on the electrification of the industrial belt areas of Bihar and Bengal?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** The Survey Team has completed preliminary survey of the sections included in the scope of their investigations and are now engaged in preparing detailed estimates phase by phase.

**Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Who are the members of the survey party?

**Shri Alagesan:** A committee of senior officers has been appointed. I do not have their names here. I can supply them to the hon. Member if he wants.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** May I know if this team of officers to carry on the survey work was appointed after the investigation and report of the S. N. Roy Committee?