

## WHEAT IMPORTS

\*1584. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of wheat purchased under the International Wheat Agreement so far;

(b) the total quantity that has reached Indian shores;

(c) by what time the remaining quantity is expected here; and

(d) whether Government have taken notice of the recommendation of the Estimates Committee in regard to ascertaining the quality of wheat before making the purchase from the exporting countries?

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

(a) During the first year of the revised and renewed International Wheat Agreement (which commenced on the 1st August, 1953) we have so far purchased 9,250 tons of wheat from Australia.

(b) The entire quantity of 9,250 tons.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** Is the present market price in the exporting countries higher or lower than the agreed rate?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** It is in between the floor and the ceiling prices which are 1.55 dollars and 2.05 dollars respectively.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** May I know if we have our own agent to inspect this wheat before it is imported?

**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** This question has been replied to before. In Australia and America, it is inspected by the inspecting agents appointed by the Agriculture Ministry of those countries.

**Shri Boovaraghasamy:** Is this wheat purchased directly by Government or by private channels?

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**Shri M. V. Krishnappa:** The import in this case is only some 9,000 and odd tons. One of our ships which had gone to Australia was returning, and in order to provide it with some return cargo, we decided to import this quantity during the first year of the Agreement.

## MATERIALS PURCHASED BY RAILWAYS

\*1585. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that a huge loss is being incurred in the purchase of articles for the Railways; and

(b) whether bamboo splints have been purchased by the Southern Railway at the rate of Rs. 4 per foot while bundles (nearly 60 feet) are available for Rs. 2/-?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan):**

(a) There is a regular procedure laid down on Railways for the purchase of stores and there are no grounds to warrant this conclusion.

(b) No, Sir.

**Shri Muniswamy:** May I know who are the present contractors for the purchase of these bamboo splints, and how many are there?

**Shri Shahnawaz Khan:** I do not know the names of the particular gentlemen. But an open tender is given and the cheapest tender is accepted.

## IMPROVEMENTS IN COCHIN HARBOUR

\*1586. **Shri M. L. Dwivedi:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the experiments which were being carried out in the Central Water and Power Research Station, Poona on the improvement to be effected in Cochin Harbour, have been completed;

(b) if so, what is the estimated expenditure which will be required to implement the recommendations of the Research Station?