

Jonab Amjad Ali: With regard to the answer to part (a) of the question may I know whether any chemical analysis has been made in order to ascertain the food value of tapioca?

Shri Kidwai: Yes, Sir.

Jonab Amjad Ali: What is the result? What relation does it bear to rice?

Shri Kidwai: It is claimed, and analysis also shows, that it has got as high nutritive value as rice.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know the cost of producing 1 lb. of synthetic rice from tapioca?

Shri Kidwai: Well, I have no information about that, but I can supply the information if a question is put.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Is the hon. Minister aware that Travancoreans relish pure tapioca better than this synthetic rice?

Mr. Speaker: The information is taken.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether the Government of India has advised Travancore-Cochin not to allow tapioca to be transported from Travancore-Cochin State?

Shri Kidwai: I will consider the suggestion.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: Has synthetic rice been produced in marketable quantities?

Shri Kidwai: No, Sir.

POWER LIFT IRRIGATION

*1491. **Jonab Amjad Ali:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have started power lift irrigation;

(b) the aid each of such States is now getting from the Government of India on account of this; and

(c) to what other States the Government of India propose to extend the same?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). Power lift irrigation is now in vogue in all the States. A statement showing the financial assistance so far given to States during 1952-53 for power lift irrigation is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix VII, annexure No. 32.]

(c) Requests for financial assistance from other States will be considered, when received.

Jonab Amjad Ali: Has the Government received any representation from the Government of Assam in this respect?

Shri Kidwai: Assam has been given some grant.

Shri E. S. Murthy: Has the Government of Madras sent any application with respect to Madras?

Shri Kidwai: Madras is also on the list of States which have received both the grant and the loan.

MADURA-BODINAYAKANUR RAILWAY LINE

*1493. **Shri K. S. Gounder:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of restoration of the dismantled Madura-Bodinayakanur Railway Line has been taken up;

(b) if so, at what stage the work stands at present; and

(c) when is it expected to be completed?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) Yes.

(b) Preliminary works for restoration of the line were commenced in October 1951 and are nearing completion. Actual linking of the track is expected to be commenced by 15th July 1952.

(c) The work of restoration is expected to be completed during 1953-54.

Shri Kandaswamy put a question in Tamil.

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question. He may give a translation of his question.

Shri Nambiar: I will translate it.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: May I translate it?

Mr. Speaker: No, no. Next question.

POTATO CULTIVATION

*1494. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many acres of land were under potato cultivation during the year 1951-52;

(b) whether there will be any increase during the current year; and

(c) if so, to what extent?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). The 1951-52 Final Estimates of Potato are scheduled to be released in October

1952, and the sowings of 1952-53 crop are due to start in October-November 1952 only. Therefore, neither the 1951-52 estimates have been finalised nor can it be said at this stage as to what the acreage in 1952-53 will be.

According to the 1951-52 First Estimate of Potato, the acreage under the crop was 523 thousand acres and this was 5,000 acres more than the 1950-51 First (Adjusted) Estimate.

Shri M. Islamuddin: May I know which State produces the largest quantity of potatoes and which State the best quality?

Shri Kidwai: I have not got the figures State-wise, but I think Bihar produces the largest quantity.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know what steps are being taken by Government to increase its cultivation?

Shri Kidwai: With regard to potatoes, there is no difficulty in getting any quantity in the market. The problem is of improving the quality. Government have got research institutes for this purpose and they have adopted various measures to help the cultivator to produce better quality of potatoes.

Mr. Speaker: The question hour is over.

Short Notice Question and Answer

IMPROPER STORAGE OF FOODGRAINS IN BOMBAY

Shri Pataskar: Will the Minister for Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that considerable portion of American wheat unloaded in Bombay is being damaged owing to improper storage and the heavy rains in Bombay; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken or has been taken to prevent this damage and for proper storage?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). On the 13th June 1952 when during one hour there was a heavy downpour of 4½ inches, water percolated through the roofs and valley gutters of the Sewri godowns and affected the bottom layers of the stacks inspite of the bags being covered by tarpaulins. The wet grain is being reconditioned but it is estimated that about 60 tons of grain will remain damaged. This godown which had to be used owing to severe pressure on godown space has since been vacated.

The hon. Member is aware of the heavy pressure which has been put on the storage available to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. A very large amount of additional godown storage space has had to be hired or acquired. Some of these godowns needed repairs. Every effort is being made to carry out effective repairs. I have appointed a Panel of Storage experts to go round the godowns where large quantities are stored to help in the immediate improvement of storage conditions.

Shri Pataskar: Were these godowns repaired just before the monsoons?

Shri Kidwai: They were hired or acquired just before the monsoons.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is it true that three new godowns were ordered to be constructed under the orders of your predecessor, and were they not ready for goods to be stored therein?

Shri Kidwai: It is true that when we found that we would have a larger stock than our storage capacity could accommodate, some godown space was hurriedly hired or acquired and new construction was ordered for three godowns.

Shri Dabhi: Were these hired godowns properly inspected before foodgrains were stored therein?

Shri Kidwai: We had not much choice and whatever we could get we had to acquire with the hope that we would be able to repair and put them in good condition for storage.

Shri S. S. More: May I know what is the total quantum of the damage done?

Shri Kidwai: I have said it is about 60 tons.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know, Sir, whether the authorities concerned have been negligent in this matter to any degree?

Shri Kidwai: I have explained that owing to pressure, we had to acquire certain godowns, and we had to accept them in whatever condition they were. These godowns, most of them, are working satisfactorily, but as I have said, a party of experts is going round seeing every godown, every storage, to see what can be done.

Shri B. S. Murthy: My question is not that.

Mr. Speaker: He has explained that circumstances had forced them to take whatever they could get. There was no choice for them. That is what he said in the first part of his reply.