

(c) how much out of this was purchased directly from the State Government forests and what was the total price paid for it; and

(d) how much out of this was purchased through private merchants and what was the total price paid for it?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) and (b). The required information is being collected and will be shown in the Annual Report on Indian Railways for 1951-52 copies of which will be placed in the Library of the House as soon as they are printed.

(c) and (d). About 26 per cent. of the wooden sleepers were purchased directly from the State Government forests and the balance through private contractors at approximate costs of Rs. 38.47 lakhs and 1,12.28 lakhs respectively.

LOCOMOTIVE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION OF U.K.

123. Shri M. R. Krishna: (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state what amount of Railway material has been asked for from the Locomotive Manufacturers' Association of Great Britain?

(b) How long will it take for India to receive its indented material from U.K.?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The approximate cost of materials that are required from the Locomotive Manufacturers' Association over the technical aid period of 5 years is estimated at about Rs. 5,88,55,920.

(b) The average times of delivery have ranged between 18 months from date of placing the order to about 28.

PADDY BUGS

124. Shri N. P. Saha: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a mass scale damage to standing paddy crops in Chhota-nagpur (Bihar) and in other parts of India has been caused by "paddy bugs";

(b) if so, what is the extent of damage; and

(c) what steps were taken by Government to counteract the menace and what is proposed to be done to prevent a recurrence in future?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Wide-spread damage by paddy bug (*Gundhy*) to the standing crops of early sown varieties of paddy has been reported from Chhota Nagpur and other Divisions of Bihar State, Chhatisgarh division of Madhya Pradesh, some parts in Orissa and Vindhya Pradesh. In the latter State it is reported that the mid season late varieties were also attacked.

(b) The extent of the damage is not yet known.

(c) The Government of India in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture deputed their Entomologists to assist the State Governments in organising campaigns and obtaining necessary equipment and insecticides to control the pest. An aeroplane operating for locust control work under T.C.A. Agreement was sent to Bihar to do aerial spraying. The State Government mobilised their resources and with the co-operation of the Revenue authorities, the Plant Protection Organisations, Research and Extension staff of the Departments of Agriculture the pest was brought under control.

Control measures against an insect must be taken immediately after its appearance which must be detected, otherwise it multiplies and becomes a serious menace. The State Governments are being advised to strengthen their Plant Protection staff and equipment, for the purpose.

PRODUCTION OF HIGH GRADE JUTES

125. Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main grades of jute-grown in the different States of India;

(b) the percentage of the total demands of the jute industry in India with regard to the manufacture of—

- (i) gunny cloth and sacking,
- (ii) hessian, and
- (iii) canvas and other jute fabrics;

(c) which of the grades of India-grown jute are preferred respectively for the manufacture of—

- (i) gunny cloth and sacking, and
- (ii) hessian and canvas; and

(d) what further steps Government propose to take to increase the production of high grade jutes at low costs?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Middle.