

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Government are aware of insufficient accommodation in the waiting rooms at Vijayawada and at Tenali stations, but not at Masulipatam.

(b) Yes, at Vijayawada and Tenali.

(c) It is proposed to remodel Vijayawada and Tenali stations and to provide the following facilities there:—**Vijayawada:** A new booking office, third class waiting halls at either end of the overbridge and covered accommodation for island and main platforms. **Tenali:** An extensive third class waiting hall outside the booking office and a roofing over the platform.

The works at Vijayawada are expected to be taken up in 1953-54.

#### CULTIVABLE LAND

**826. Shri Mohanlal Saksena:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the approximate total acreage of cultivable land that is left un-cultivated in village areas each year?

(b) What will be the approximate yield of food crops from the land so left?

(c) What steps if any, have so far been taken to see that the land so left is cultivated?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) About 1½ million acres in 1949-50.

(b) Approximately 4 million tons.

(c) The steps taken so far to bring culturable lands under cultivation include:

(i) Reclamation of Kans-infested land by Central Tractor Organisation, and of fallow and waste land by State Governments and farmers.

(ii) Enactment by certain States of legislation for the cultivation of waste and fallow lands in their respective areas.

#### Mohwa FLOWER

**827. Shri Saanganna:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Mohwa flower produced in each State of the country; and

(b) whether it is used only for manufacture of liquor or for some other industrial purposes?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Mohwa is not a cultivated crop and data about its production are not available. It is known to grow in the forests or on the road-sides in U.P., Bihar, Bombay, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Hyderabad and Madhya Bharat.

(b) Alcohol and Acetone can be prepared from Mohwa flowers. Experiments are also being conducted for the preparation of Citric and Acetic acids from these flowers. They are used by some people for edible purposes. Dried flowers have also been found to be excellent fattening food for the cattle.

#### CHIDAMBARAM TALUK SUGAR-CANE GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

**828. Shri Kachiroyar:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum has been received by Government from the members of the Chidambaram Taluk Sugar-cane Growers' Association, Chidambaram requesting (i) for reduction in the price of manure supplied to them and (ii) for reduction in the railway freight for the carriage of sugar-cane to the factories in view of the reduced price of the sugar-cane; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) and (b). My Ministry has not received any representation from the Chidambaram Association regarding the reduction in the price of manures etc. Ministry of Railways, however, has received a representation for the grant of special concession in freight rates for the transport of sugarcane, which is being examined by them.

#### P. & T. EMPLOYEES IN WEST BENGAL

**829. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in the Posts and Telegraphs Department in West Bengal who failed to opt in time for the Pay Commission scales of pay; and

(b) whether Government have received and are considering representations from such employees that their failure to so opt was due to inadvertence and misunderstanding and that they desire now to opt for the Pay Commission scales?