

strength, durability and availability of the various kinds of soft wood in India;

(c) whether the Government of India have made any study of the possibility of using soft wood for building purposes; and

(d) if so, the result of such study?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

"GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN (GRANTS)

143. Shri Karni Singhji: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by the Government of India by way of grants or subsidies to the Rajasthan Government for "Grow More Food" Schemes during each of the last four years ending March 1953; and

(b) the percentage of increase under the Schemes in the total acreage of fallow land during the same period?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a)—

	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	Loan	Grant	Total
1949-50	Nil	Nil	Nil
1950-51	3.25	1.03	4.28
1951-52	1.50	3.06	4.56
1952-53	5.60	0.19	5.79 (from 1-4-52 to 31-12-52)

The figures are provisional.

(b) Prior to 1950-51 agricultural statistics of Rajasthan related to only a part of the State. For 1950-51, the latest year for which statistics are available, the figures relate practically to the whole State as it is now. No valid comparison of the extent of fallow lands in 1950-51 with earlier years is therefore possible. For 1950-51 the figure of fallow land was estimated at 14 million acres out of a total area of

81 million acres reporting for Agricultural statistics. No figures for subsequent years are available.

GIFT FROM U.S.S.R. FOR SCARCITY AREAS

144. Shri Eswara Reddy: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the number and quantity of rice, milk tins, wheat and the amount of cash donation received from the USSR through the Indian Red Cross for distribution in the famine-stricken areas of the country?

(b) What quantity of the above were allotted for distribution in the Rayalaseema area?

(c) What machinery is in operation to ensure that these gifts are properly distributed to the famine-stricken areas of the country generally and Rayalaseema particularly?

(d) Have any instances of these gifts being misused or distributed improperly, or not being distributed at all been brought to the notice of Government?

(e) If so, what action have Government taken to prevent misuse of the gifts?

(f) Is it a fact that considerable quantities of these gifts are still lying undistributed in the godowns of Taluk offices of various places in Andhra and Tamil Nad?

(g) If so, what is the quantity lying undistributed and where?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House, when received.

(c) In Madras, the Indian Red Cross Society decided to appoint Collectors as nominees of the Red Cross Society and the distribution is made by the Collectors through gruel Centres, and other organised agencies like maternity centres, hospitals, hostels, orphanages. Red Cross Branches and other charitable institutions. In Mysore, the stocks are held by Government through local Revenue and Food Authorities and the

allotments for distribution are made through the Red Cross Society. In Hyderabad, the distribution is being done by the Indian Red Cross Society in consultation with the District Collectors, who have formed local Committees for the purpose. In all these States, proper accounts are being maintained in all the distributing centres for the receipt, issue, and the balance of grains and milk tins, which are periodically checked by Government officials, special audit parties as well as by the Indian Red Cross Society.

(d) and (e). Only in Madras five complaints about the improper use of the gift were brought to the notice of the authorities. On investigation two complaints proved to be baseless. Legal action is being taken in two other cases while disciplinary action is being taken in the third case.

(f) and (g). There are small balances with State Governments left over for distribution as it was considered necessary that stocks should be conserved for use for as long a period of distress as could be foreseen by the local Collectors. Information regarding the actual stocks held in reserve is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

RESERVATION OF SEATS FOR PART 'C' STATE IN MEDICAL COLLEGES

145. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some seats have been reserved by the Government of India in some of the medical colleges in the country for students belonging to Part "C" States?

(b) If so, how many seats have been reserved and in which colleges?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 14.]

RETRENCHMENT OF TELEPHONE OPERATORS

146. **Shri Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone operators retrenched in May-June, 1953 and the number originally estimated to be surplus during this stage;

(b) the number of those absorbed in Trunk Exchanges and other centres;

(c) the number estimated to be surplus during the next four stages June-July, 1953, Feb.-March, 1956, November-December, 1956 and August-September, 1957; and

(d) the number expected to be absorbed?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) No Telephone Operator was retrenched at the first stage of the cut over in Calcutta Auto-Exchanges in May-June, 1953. The number of telephone operators originally estimated to be surplus at this stage was 150.

(b) 26 Telephone Operators have been absorbed, all in the Calcutta Trunk Exchange.

(c) Stage I—May-July 1953	...	150
Stage II—June-July, 1955	...	120
Stage III—February-March, 1956	...	140
Stage IV—November-December, 1956	...	150
Stage V—August-September, 1957	..	100.

(d) Every effort will be made to absorb all the suitable Telephone Operators who become surplus consequent on the automatization scheme.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS IN PUNJAB

147. **Prof. D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the total mileage of roads that will come under National Highways in