

ascertain the percentage of soil-erosion in Sholapur District of Bombay State; and

(b) if so, what is the percentage of soil-erosion per acre, per annum?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 26.]

#### MARINE ENGINEERING COLLEGE, BEHALA

\*1408. **Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Marine Engineering College has been opened recently at Behala, in Calcutta?

(b) If so, what are the subjects to be taught in this College?

(c) Is this College meant to impart training to officers only or can private individuals also be trained in this College?

(d) Are any foreign experts also working in this College?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) Yes.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 27.]

(c) Admission to the College is open to all boys between the ages of 15½ and 19 years with the requisite educational qualifications.

(d) The Principal is the only foreign national employed in the College.

#### RAILWAY LAND

\*1409. **Shri Nageshwar Prasad Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether the lands on either side of the Railway lines of the Grand Chord line from Asansol to Gaya, as also, of the feeder lines, are settled each year to prospective cultivators offering highest bids?

(b) If so, were all such lands settled this year before paddy cultivation and if not, why?

(c) Were certain lands not settled this year and if so, at which places and why?

(d) What was the bid amount fetched in 1951, 1952 and 1953?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The policy is to entrust all surplus cultivable railway lands to the State Governments for leasing out to cultivators and the responsibility of letting land to prospective cultivators rests entirely with them.

(b) and (c). Surplus Railway land in West Bengal has been handed over to the State Government. There has been some unavoidable delay in settlement of lands in Jharia coalfields area as all the surplus land has not been taken over by the Bihar Government in time.

	Rs.
(d) 1951	— 17,140/-
1952	— 26,298/8/-
1953	11,661/8/-

#### SUGARCANE WAX

\*1410. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been carried out to see that sugarcane wax can be used for industrial purposes;

(b) if so, what are the findings; and

(c) the percentage of wax available from Indian cane stalk?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 28.]

#### SISIWA SUGAR MILLS

\*1411. **Shri Sinhasan Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to reply to unstarred question No. 231 asked on the 30th November, 1953 and state:

(a) what are the reasons for the abrupt fall in recovery in the Sisiwa

Sugar Mills in the month of May 1953; and

(b) what was the total production of the Sisiwa Mills for the Season 1952-53?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 29.]

#### LOCUSTS

\*1412. **Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the answer given to a supplementary arising out of the reply given to starred question No. 397 asked on the 30th November, 1953, regarding the attack by locusts on crops in some districts of Tamilnad and state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to investigate the matter; and

(b) if so, what are the details?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) Yes.

(b) There has been no locust attack in the whole of Madras State during the past 4 years.

#### RAILWAY WAGONS

\*1413. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual requirements of wagons for Indian Railways; and

(b) whether Government propose to set up its own wagon-building factory?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) The annual requirement of wagons for the next 6 years is estimated to be of the order of about 12000.

(b) No Sir, it is proposed to order these wagons from private firms in India.

#### BRIDGES

\*1414. **Shri Hem Raj:** (a) Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state what grants have been made by

the Central Government to the Punjab Government for the construction of bridges on National Highways during the years 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54?

(b) Have the Punjab Government approached the Central Government for a grant for the construction of a bridge at Dehra Gopipur on the river Beas and if so, for how much?

(c) Are any special considerations given for the construction of such bridges in the scarcity-affected areas?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Yes. A request for a grant of Rs. 20 lakhs, representing 2/3rds of the cost of the proposed bridge, from the Central Road Fund (Ordinary) Reserve has recently been received from the Punjab Government and is under consideration. The bridge does not lie on a National Highway.

(c) No proposal has come up from any State Government for the construction of a bridge on a National Highway on the ground that the bridge is required in a scarcity-affected area. A high priority has, however, been given to the construction of missing bridges in the five-year programme for the development of National Highways.

#### STATEMENT

*Grants made to the Punjab Government for the construction of bridges on the National Highways in the State during the years 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54.*

Year	Rs. in Lakhs	
		Amount
1951-52		5.26
1952-53		9.01
1953-54		11.77