

the months of February and March 1956 bears a ratio of about 31% to the expenditure incurred during the other ten months of the year 1955-56.

#### HAND POUNDING RICE

**1345. Shri Deogam:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to supply improved implements, viz. *Chakkis*, *dhenkis* and fans for hand pounding rice; and

(b) whether concession in Railway Freight is allowed to transport them from the place of manufacture?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) Improved implements, viz. Stone chakkis, dhenkis and winnowing fans are manufactured at recognized centres and are supplied to cooperative societies/registered institutions and Statutory State Boards through the All India Khadi and Village Industries Board at 50% cost, the balance 50% being met by subsidy sanctioned by Government.

(b) No.

#### CONTRACTS

**1346. Shri Keshavaiengar:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tendered contracts accepted during the period from the 1st January, 1954 to the 31st December, 1954 half-yearly;

(b) in how many of these contracts applications of amendments of time for delivery etc., have been made by the contractors;

(c) whether Government have received recommendations to alter, modify or overhaul the prevailing system and the procedure of implementation of accepted contracts; and

(d) if so, with what result?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar):** (a) The Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals placed 8,217 contracts for purchase of stores from 1-1-54 to 30-6-54, and 9,968 contracts from 1-7-54 to 31-12-1954.

(b) Statistics in regard to such applications are not maintained.

(c) The Stores Purchase Committee has made certain recommendations in this respect. The more important of these relate to the stipulation of realistic delivery periods, the setting up of a Progress Wing to progress supplies against contracts so as to ensure supplies within the contract delivery period, the introduction of a grace period of 21 days, and a simpler procedure for dealing with requests from contractors regarding extension of delivery period.

(d) These recommendations have been accepted by Government and appropriate orders issued. Although it is too early to judge the results, the implementation of these orders should eliminate delays in procurement to a large extent.

#### A.I.R.

**1347. Shri Siddananajappa:** Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state whether a Producer and an Assistant Producer for Drama have been appointed in the All-India Radio Station at Bangalore; and

(b) if so, how the selections were made?

**The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar):** (a) No Sir, not Yet.

(b) Selections will, when necessary, be made by departmental selection committee in which besides the Director-General of All India Radio and the Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, two independent persons, eminent in Kannada literature are included.

#### ACCOMMODATION FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

**1348. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government propose to take to reduce the pressure of accommodation for Government employees in Delhi; and

(b) the total amount to be spent on this scheme during 1956-57?