

ent position of standing timber in the country; and

(b) whether it is on the increase or decrease?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) A statement showing the volume of Standing Timber and fire wood in India for the year 1950-51 to 1955-56 is placed on the Table. [See Appendix I, Annexure No. 46]. Information for timber alone is not available.

(b) On the basis of available information, there is an increase in the case of Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, U.P., Hyderabad, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Andamans and Nicobar Islands whereas in the case of Mysore and West Bengal (in 1955-56) there has been a decrease.

#### Reservation of Shipping Space for Coir Products

\*46. **Shri Vasudevan Nair:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations from the Kerala Government to take steps to reserve fifteen per cent of the shipping space for coir products from ports of Kerala in view of the fact that shippers were not accepting coir goods when they had heavier cargoes; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has not been possible to accept the proposal as,

(i) the Indian Coastal Conference who were consulted, have opposed it on the ground that it will not work,

(ii) the demand for shipping space for various cargoes, is dictated by market condi-

tions at the ports of destination,

(iii) any reservation for any particular commodity will give rise to claims for similar treatment in respect of other trades which will be difficult to resist; and

(iv) in the context of our limited tonnage on the coast, it would not be in the best interests of our economy to make such reservations.

#### Dust Storms

\*50. **Shri Muhammed Elias:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dust storms which raged in the Capital during the months of May and June, 1958;

(b) whether it is a fact that the frequency and violence of these storms have been increasing;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any steps are proposed to be taken to make Delhi's air cleaner and calmer?

**The Deputy Minister of Civil Aviation (Shri Mohiuddin):** (a) 7 in May and 6 in June.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No Sir, the technical developments in Science have not yet reached the stage where it is possible to regulate the climatic changes within a territorial region.

#### Land Cultivation

\*57. **Shri Ramam:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether any instructions were sent to the State Governments for the assignment of waste lands to landless labourers for cultivation?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** Yes, Sir. The State Governments were asked, to

carry out a survey of the waste cultivable lands, lying fallow, in their States, with a view to locate compact blocks for the purpose of settlement, and to find out the extent of landless labourers awaiting resettlement on these lands. They were also asked to formulate suitable schemes and submit to the Government of India for financial assistance.

#### Safety Organisations in Railways

\*58. **Shri Hem Barua:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Safety Organisations have been recently set up in the different Railways to enquire into the causes of accidents and suggest ways and means to avoid them;

(b) if so, whether these organisations have already started their work; and

(c) if so, by what time the findings of these organisations are likely to be made available?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan):** (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, Annexure No. 47.]

#### Ad-hoc Committee on Transport Administration in States

\*59. { **Shri Ram Krishan:**  
**Sardar Iqbal Singh:**  
**Shri S. M. Banerjee:**  
**Shri Tangamanl:**

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ad hoc Committee set up to advise on the re-organisation of Transport Administration in the States has commenced its work;

(b) if so, work done so far; and

(c) when it is expected to make its recommendations?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes.

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, Annexure No. 48].

(c) In about six months.

#### Import of Wheat

\*60. { **Shri D. C. Sharma:**  
**Shri Daljit Singh:**

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what is the over-all position with regard to the import of wheat;

(b) whether imports are keeping pace with the requirements of the country;

(c) the total quantity of wheat held as a reserve by or on behalf of the Centre; and

(d) the particular difficulties either in import, off-take or distribution of wheat, the Government expect before the end of the current financial year?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Arrangements already exist for the import of about 23 lakh tons of wheat during the year 1958. Against this quantity, about 14.7 lakh tons were received in India up to the end of July 1958.

(b) Yes.

(c) About 6 lakh tons on the 19th July. In addition there is a stock of over 2 lakh tons with the State Governments.

(d) Suitable steps are being taken to ensure that no difficulties arise in import, off-take or distribution of wheat.