

by the farmers which on an average give about 10 quintals per hectare. The new strains, if given necessary inputs, should be capable to give much higher yields than the local varieties.

(c) Names of some of the other promising strains in various stages of testing at the Vivekananda Laboratory, Almora are: VL Numbers 427, 425, B21, B61, No. 602, No. 579 No. 759 VL528, VL422, VL428 etc. These strains are to be tested extensively in different areas of the hills before they are released.

**News item captioned "Riddle of Empty Bags in wheat godowns" in the Hindustan Times dt. 27-3-73**

7793. SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the Press Report in Hindustan Times dated 27th March, 1973 under the heading "Riddle of empty bags in wheat godowns;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government;

(c) whether Government have started raids in various parts of the country to find out the foodgrains dumped in the godowns; and

(d) if so, whether Government have decided to have country wide raids for the godowns?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):**  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have taken a serious view of the matter and has directed the Central Warehousing Corporation to submit an enquiry report at an early date. The Central Warehousing Corporation has already placed the officer who is reported to

have made the purchase under suspension and has also ordered an enquiry into the incident.

(c) and (d). As per standing orders in the Corporation periodical physical verification of stocks is done. Watch and ward arrangements are provided in the godowns round the clock. All incoming and outgoing stocks are checked at the gate and gate pass system is in vogue. The Corporation has been asked to strictly enforce these measures and also take immediate steps to strengthen the security measures in respect of all godowns.

**Proposals to set up a Committee to suggest methods for construction of National Highway etc. According to specifications**

7794. SHRI P. GANGADEB:

SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has decided to set up a Committee to suggest methods for ensuring the construction of National Highways and other roads according to the specifications and designs;

(b) if so, when the Committee is likely to be set up and who will be its members; and

(c) whether State Governments will be represented in the Committee?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI M. B. RANA):**  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee has already been set up with the following composition:—

(1) Director General (Road Development) and Additional Secretary,  
Ministry of Shipping and Transport . . . . . *Chairman*