

link are in progress. A rail connection from the Gua-Barabil area to the Manoharpur-Rourkela section will be started in 1953-54.

FORD FOUNDATION SCHEME

228. **Shri Chinaria:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how many Extension Departments have been opened for providing Extension Education at the University level under the Ford Foundation Scheme; and

(b) the names of the colleges and the number of those who have undergone that training and also of those who are undergoing?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The number of Extension Wings attached to Agricultural Colleges which have to be opened under agreement with the Ford Foundation is five. Two of these Wings have already been sanctioned out of which one has started working and the other will start working shortly. Proposals regarding the remaining 3 Wings are under consideration. A sixth Wing has been located at Agricultural Institute, Naini (Allahabad), in direct arrangement between the Institute and the Ford Foundation.

- (b) (1) Agricultural College, Tollygunge, West Bengal—Already started.
- (2) Agricultural College, Nagpur—Sanctioned but not yet started.
- (3) Central Agricultural College, Delhi—Sanctioned, but not yet started.
- (4) Agricultural College, Poona, Bombay—Proposals under consideration.
- (5) Agricultural College, Coimbatore—Proposals under consideration.

No one has completed the training. The number of those who are undergoing training is being ascertained and will be communicated later.

CASHEWNUIT CULTIVATION

229. **Shri Damodara Menon:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the area under cashewnut cultivation in India;

(b) whether the area has diminished in recent years; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken to increase its production?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Statistics of area and production of cashewnut are not collected by all the States in the country. According to the information available in respect of Bombay, Madras, Orissa, Mysore, Travancore-Cochin and Coorg, the acreage under cashewnut in these States totalled 160 thousand acres in 1950-51.

(b) The over-all area in the above-mentioned States has remained more or less steady.

(c) Yes; the Indian Council of Agricultural Research are financing schemes for research on cashewnuts in the States of Madras, Bombay and Travancore-Cochin. The Scheme in respect of Madras aims at extending the cultivation to new areas and at improving the yields of the existing plantation of cashewnuts. The schemes in respect of Bombay and Travancore-Cochin relate to the study and application of improved cultural practices.

SLEEPERS

230. **Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state the total value of timber purchased for sleepers on Railway tracks made during 1950-51 and 1951-52?

(b) From what sources was this purchase made and the quantity of each item?

(c) What was the total number of sleepers creosoted at Dhilwan and Narkatia?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Railways do not purchase timber for making into sleepers but ready-made wooden sleepers only. The value of the wooden sleepers purchased in 1950-51 was Rs. 1.76 crores and in 1951-52 Rs. 2.3 crores.

(b) The Railways place their requirements on Sleeper Groups, who arrange supplies through the State Forest Departments and also by calling for open tenders. The Sleeper Groups purchased the following wooden sleepers during 1950-51 and 1951-52:—

	1950-51	1951-52
Broad Gauge	431,946	261,571
Metre Gauge	1,103,666	826,871
Narrow Gauge	188,302	42,341