

crossed the North and Western Africa and reached Sudan and there is a possibility of some groups of locusts reaching India from the west.

(c) (i) Constant vigilance is being kept on locust activity in the Scheduled Desert Area;

(ii) Regular interaction is being maintained between the Locust Control Organisations of India, Pakistan and the FAO;

(iii) The State Governments concerned have been alerted;

(iv) Locust Warning Organisation has been geared up through mobilisation of manpower, vehicles, equipment, pesticides etc.; and

(v) A detailed contingency plan has been drawn up for the deployment of men and material at strategic locations to tackle any emergent situation.

1364. [Transferred to the 9th August, 1988].

Recruitment of handicapped in Central Services

1365. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated a special time bound Programme to recruit handicapped persons in Central Services recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the percentage fixed in this regard; and

(c) whether any guidelines and instructions have been issued to the various departments to expedite the recruitment in favour of such persons?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India have reserved 3 per cent vacancies for the physically handicapped in Group C & D posts in Central Government Ministries/Depts.

and cooperable posts in Central Government Public Sector Undertakings. The reservations are 1 per cent each for the blind, deaf and for the orthopaedically handicapped. Special recruitment of blind and deaf persons has been done against backlog of vacancies available in Delhi in Central Government Ministries/Depts, in respect of Group C & D posts.

An attempt is being made to fill up the backlog of vacancies in Offices outside Delhi by 31.12.1988 in respect of the blind and the deaf.

(c) Guidelines and instructions have been issued from time to time to various Ministries/Departments to expedite the recruitment of the handicapped.

Promotion of Cashew Nut Cultivation

1366. DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Cashew Nut Board to promote Cashew Nut Cultivation, processing and export as an integrated operation in view of the potential of this high value crop; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No decision has been taken as yet to set up a Cashewnut Board.

(b) The question does not arise.

Analysis of working of AIR and Doordarshan

67. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any critical analysis with regard to the functioning of the AIR and Doordarshan has been made to know how far the official media are fulfilling their role in projecting the views of the