

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: I have not followed his answer. He says that the only effective way of destroying the eggs is by ploughing the field. How is it that the farmers can plough the fields when standing crops are there?

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: May I know what is the estimated loss suffered due to the locust menace?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Actually, this has not yet been calculated in terms of money. But as you know, Madam, the fields have been sown with maize, cotton, jowar, etc. The menace is mostly in certain parts. In parts of Punjab they have become grown up. But yet the loss has not been calculated. The damage is not very heavy. But in that district and in some parts of Ludhiana, Jullundur and Karnal, it is no doubt large but in other districts it is not so heavy.

And in regard to Mr. Patel's question, I would like to submit that he has not perhaps followed me because the locusts do not distinguish between fields where crops are standing and fields where there are no crops. Where there are no crops, ploughing is a very effective way of killing the eggs. Where there are crops the farmers try to spray some insecticide, etc., they beat drums also or they do some other thing. The difficulty that we are experiencing is that in densely populated areas, it is not possible, because we are not getting the co-operation of all the villagers so that we can carry out aerial spraying operations and the villagers fear that the health condition of their cattle as well as of human beings will also be affected. These things are coming in our way. If he knows any particular district, he can straightway tell me and I will see that it is sprayed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dahyabhai Patel's question was: "How do you destroy eggs when they are first laid?" You do not destroy them by the beat of drums.

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Perhaps, you have not also understood me, Madam. The eggs get spread over a wide area and, therefore, ploughing is the most effective way of killing the eggs. But the hoppers are sprayed upon because when the eggs sprout in the shape of hoppers, then aerial spraying is effective. It is not very effective in regard to eggs.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

COMMONWEALTH POOL

*385. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BOAC-Air India-Qantas pool, known as the Commonwealth Pool, is likely to be declared void in the United States of America;

(b) whether the United States Air Transport Association has attacked the pool as unfair competition;

(c) whether President Kennedy has asked for an official committee to report to him on the possible action against the pool; and

(b) if so, how does Air India hope to meet the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI B. BHAGAVATI) : (a) The U.S. Government are understood to have no intention to declare the pool as void.

(b) and (c) Neither the U.S. Air Transport Association appear to have filed any formal protest against the BOAC-Air India-Qantas commercial pool nor has President Kennedy appointed any official committee to report on possible action against the pool.

(d) Does not arise.