

Communications Ministry not do it departmentally?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: Sir, a comparison is very unfair. It cannot be compared with a railway restaurant.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why not?

(No reply.)

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: May I know, Sir, if the catering at these airports is departmental or through contractors?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: Through contractors.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: The hon. Minister has just said that there was no comparison between the railway catering and the catering at airports. What is the reason for that?

SHRI AHMED MOHIUDDIN: I have stated the reason. The airports are mostly 10-15 miles away from the market. Moreover, at important airports they have got to maintain two or even three shifts at international airports. As a result, the cost is much higher.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know, Sir, if this high cost is not due to the fact that there are certain big contractors who are given this job of catering and that they refuse to bring down the prices and the Government does not do anything about it? That is why it is so. Do, not talk of high prices.

III. CHAIRMAN: No imputation. Next question.

POSSIBILITY OF LOCUST INVASION

•171. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report that there will be another invasion of locusts in India in the near future is correct; if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation; and

(b) what is the extent of loss caused to crops due to the last locust invasion in this country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) According to the recent information received from Anti-Locust Research Centre, London and the Food and Agricultural Organization Technical Advisory Committee on Desert Locust Control, locust invasion this year is most likely.

Infiltration of locust swarms in India is mainly through the Rajasthan desert totalling about 82,000 sq. miles where locusts mostly breed. In order to take effective anti-locust measures for the destruction of locusts, all the 41 outposts, set up over the desert area under the Central Locust Warning Organization, have already been adequately strengthened and equipped with modern equipment, pesticides and other deadly poisons. Wireless sets, which have already been installed at the various strategic points, are being used for locust intelligence and for maintaining a close liaison for control measures.

In order to take effective anti-locust aerial operations, the existing Aerial Unit which at present comprises of 2 aeroplanes, is being strengthened by importing 2 additional aeroplanes which would be in position by the end of June, 1961.

Locust invasions in India are the result of locust breeding and ineffective or inadequate locust control in the original breeding areas in Arabian Peninsula and elsewhere where they breed and form into swarms. With a view to minimising their intensity Government of India has been participating for the 7th year in succession during 1961, in an international anti-locust campaign, organised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in the Arabian Peninsula.

With a view to improving the efficiency of locust control organizations and methods, a training course of 4 days duration for the officers of the State Governments is proposed to be held in April, 1961 in Bikaner. The State which are vulnerable to locust invasion have already been alerted to make adequate preparations for the locust control during the summer and autumn.

(b) The value of the loss has been estimated at Rs. 7.5 lakhs over about 70,000 acres.

SHRI S. C. DEB: From the statement I find that the locust invasions in India are as a result of locust breeding and ineffective and inadequate locust control operations in original breeding areas in the Arabian Peninsula and elsewhere where locusts breed and form into swarms. May I know, Sir, whether in the absence of any control there, there is always a danger of invasion in India also?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: There also steps have been taken to minimise locust invasions. That is why as a result of that we get fewer invasions than we should have got otherwise.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know, Sir, whether there is always some danger of invasion and is it possible to avoid harm to any particular area with precautionary measures other than only giving a warning?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We have a big organization which looks after the breeding of these locusts and whenever we can locate them specifically—in the desert of Rajasthan these steps are quite effective. We need not fear because we destroy them, wherever they are located.

SHRI S. C. DEB: In the Rajasthan area some measure may be there, but still there are invasions in other areas

and locusts are doing harm to crops. May I know, Sir, what steps Government are taking to prevent injury to crops as a result of locust invasion in areas other than Rajasthan?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: As has been pointed out in the statement, we are going to increase the number of planes by another two and we have got other arrangements too. As a matter of fact, this year there were a number of swarm invasions and I think we were able to deal with them very effectively. As has been mentioned in the statement, the total damage was only Rs. 7.5 lakhs covering an area of about 70,000 acres in spite of the fact that there were swarms miles long which flew over many areas.

श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान : क्या यह सच है कि हिन्दुस्तान और पाकिस्तान के बॉर्डर पर सरकार ने बहुत सी ऐसी पोस्ट्स बना रखी हैं जो वेन-इक्विपड हैं और टिड्डियों को मारने के लिए कभी कभी हवाई जहाज से भी काम लिया जाता है और इस सिजसिले में कभी कभी अकेले हिन्दुस्तान की तरफ से काम होता है और कभी कभी पाकिस्तान से मिल कर भी काम होता है ? अगर यह ठीक है, तो क्या बॉर्डर पर इन कार्यवाहियों को और बढ़ाने का सरकार का इरादा है ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : जो मेम्बर सहाब ने कहा, वह बिल्कुल ठीक है । यह कार्यवाही काफी लम्बी चोड़ी है, लेकिन इतने बड़े वास्ट एरिया—दर हज़ार स्क्वायर माइल्स को पूरी तरह से काबू में लाना मुश्किल है ।

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: You see, Sir, I was in Calcutta when the invasion was in progress. As the invaders were passing through Calcutta, I did not see any steps being taken to destroy them. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister has had any

consultations with other Ministries including the Ministry of Defence to check this thing.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Like the questions of my hon. friend, one cannot expect where the locusts will go, and it is, therefore, not possible to make arrangements before hand.

SHRI B. D. KHOBARAGADE: Sir, last year a large number of swarms from Pakistan invaded India. May I know, Sir, whether our Government has written to the Pakistan Government to have a complete check over their breeding places in Pakistan?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Yes, Sir. There is considerable co-operation and coordination between Pakistan and India in this matter.

ALL INDIA AND LAND USE SURVEY ORGANISATION

♦145. SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the time by when the All India Soil and Land Use Survey Organisation is expected to complete its report in respect of all the States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH): The broad objectives of the All India Soil and Land Use Survey are both basic and applied. The basic part of the Survey, which is designed to classify and map out different kinds of soils with a view to determine the important properties and characteristics of these soils in relation to their genesis and fertility, is a long term one and will take several years for completion. The applied objective is to conduct a soil conservation survey for land use planning with a view to enable the preparation of land use plans. This survey is to be carried out on a priority basis in the catchments of six major river valley projects, viz., Kosi, Damodar, Chambal, Bhakhra Nangal, Hirakud and Machkund and is expected to be completed by the end of 1968.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, in what areas it has been already completed?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Some reports have already been produced. It would be difficult to give the list completely but priority has been assigned to Machkund, Hirakud, Chambal, Bhakhra Nangal, Kosi and Damodar Valley Corporation.

SHRIMATI SAVITRY DEVI NIGAM: May I know, Sir, whether or not the concerned States as well as the organisations are co-operating with the organisation?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We have no complaint so far as co-operation is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions, Mr. Deshmukh.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

EXPERIMENTS ON TREATMENT OF CANCER IN THE CANCER UNIT OF THE IRWIN HOSPITAL, DELHI

•143. SHRI P. N. RAJABHOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cancer Unit of the Irwin Hospital, Delhi, is carrying on experiments on the treatment of cancer; and

(B) if so, whether any notable results have so far been achieved?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) and (b) A statement containing the information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

The Cancer Unit of the Irwin Hospital is studying the problem of Chemo-therapy of cancer. "Nitrogen mustard" and "N. oxide of Nitrogen mustard (Nitromin)" are being used. No new experiments are being done.