

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know, Sir, whether these services were suspended on account of any political reasons and, if so, why the resumption of these services is being contemplated when the political situation still remains unsolved?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: It is true that they were suspended on account of some political reasons. I have not said that it is contemplated to resume them without any let or hindrance, but the present situation has arisen because of the Dock Workers' Federation having taken a decision to lift the boycott, and about that also I have just informed the House that the Dock Workers' Federation have informally told us that they are going to reconsider their decision. These applications have been made they have got to be considered. I have only said that these applications are under consideration.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would like to know whether these services were suspended under the instructions of the Government and whether their resumption would be welcomed by the Government.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: I have not said that they were suspended under the instructions of the Government; they were suspended more or less as a result of the boycott of the workers of the shipping companies who operated these services to Goa.

SHRI FARIDUL HAQ ANSARI: The hon. Minister has stated that they were suspended on account of some political reasons. May I know whether the Government of India has not got its own opinion and policy about this matter?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Sir, that question shall have to be asked of the Ministry of External Affairs.

**चूहों की बला खत्म करने के लिये
उल्लुओं का उपयोग**

*४०. श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करके कि:

(क) क्या उन्होंने १२ मार्च, १९६० के दिल्ली के 'टाइम्स ऑफ इंडिया' में प्रकाशित इस आशय के समाचार को देखा है कि उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने चूहों की बला खत्म करने के लिये उल्लुओं का उपयोग किया है; और

(ख) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (क) का उत्तर 'हां' हो तो क्या सरकार इस तरीके पर प्रयोग करके देश में चूहों से वस्तु अन्य क्षेत्रों के लिये इसकी सिफारिश करना चाहती है?

†[OWLS FOR ERADICATING RAT MENACE

*40. SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has seen the report published in the Delhi Edition of the *Times of India*, dated the 12th March, 1960, according to which the Government of Uttar Pradesh were using owls for eradicating the rat menace; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to experiment upon this method and to recommend it for other rat-infested areas in the country?]

कृषि उपमंत्री (श्री एस० वी० कृष्णप्पा):

(क) जी हां।

(ख) उत्तर प्रदेश में जो आजकल प्रयोग हो रहे हैं, उनके नतीजों पर यह निर्भर करेगा।

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) Yes.

(b) It would depend on the results of the experiments at present being carried out in U.P.]

†[] English translation.

श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान : क्या सरकार ने यू०पी० गवर्नमेंट से इस सम्बन्ध में सूचना मांगी है कि जो एक्सपेरीमेंट कर रहे हैं उसमें क्या प्रगति हुई और क्या उसको बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे ?

श्री एम० वी० कृष्णप्पा : अभी हमने इसके वास्ते कोई विवरण नहीं मागा है कि कितने उल्लू के बच्चे होंगे। अभी इसका विवरण हमारे पास नहीं आया है।

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: Owls are supposed to be creatures of bad omen. Are the public of Uttar Pradesh agreeable to the introduction of owls for killing rats?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: That is not a Central Government scheme; it is under the U.P. Government, and that too not under the Agriculture Ministry. It is under the P.W.D. of the U.P. Government. There is some dam near Lalitpur—the Mata Tila dam—where the rat population seems to have multiplied and which is destroying that dam. So, they are trying this owl experiment under the P.W.D.

SHRI S. C. DEB: May I know, Sir, what the effective method of eradicating this rat menace is?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Well, Sir, this rat problem is a universal problem. There are about six poisons to be given to rats, and I am prepared to give those poisons to the hon. Member if he writes to me about it. They have proved to be very effective.

SHRIMATI T. NALLAMUTHU RAMAMURTI: Is the rat manace only outside or is it also inside the dwelling places? Are owls to be reared as domestic pets?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: Sir, there are many rats in the houses and also outside. It is said that the population of rats is almost eight times that of human beings in India, and we do not want to encourage these owls

to be domesticated for the killing of rats in the houses because owls are considered to be the most inauspicious creatures.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Is it a fact that the population of owls is larger in Uttar Pradesh than in any other State of India?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: It looks like that because we have already normal methods of dealing with rats. Cats were domesticated long ago in order to check the rat menace. Now, the latest method we have invented is these six poisons. In addition to that, the U.P. Government has gone in for another remedy. That means they have more rat menace in U.P. than in any other part of India.

SHRI JAI NARAIN VYAS: Is the hon. Minister aware that there is a community in Bihar which lives on rats?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are getting away from the question. Next question.

वर्षा, आंधी तथा ओलों के कारण फसलों को हानि

***४१. श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान :** क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले महीने में उत्तर भारत में वर्षा, आंधी तथा ओलों के कारण फसलों को कितनी हानि होने का अनुमान है ;

(ख) यह हानि विशेषकर किन किन राज्यों में हुई और किस किस मात्रा में ; और

(ग) इसका अन्न के भावों पर क्या असर पड़ा है ?