

ANTI-LOCUST OPERATIONS

*55. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Expert Locust Committee was held in the month of April to consider the question of intensifying anti-locust operations in Rajasthan, Patiala and East Punjab States Union, Kutch and Saurashtra; and

(b) what steps Government have since taken in each of these States in that direction?

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

STATEMENT

A meeting of the Expert Committee on locusts was held on the 6th April 1955 in New Delhi to review the progress of work done during the previous year and to consider the measures and preparations to be undertaken in the current year by the Anti-Locust Organisation for intensifying the Anti-Locust operations in the scheduled desert areas of Rajasthan, PEPSU, Kutch and Saurashtra as also in all the States which are vulnerable to locust attack. Locust control in this area is undertaken directly by the Central Anti-Locust Organisation but locust control in other areas which we call cultivated areas for convenience of reference is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned.

2. The Government of India have taken the following steps to implement the recommendations of the Expert Committee:—

(i) The Central Anti-Locust Organisation is strengthened by the provision of more staff—two Gazetted and 15 non-Gazetted, three more trucks, 750 power and hand spraying dusting machines, and 100 tons insecticides, etc. Insecticides, and other equipment were stocked at about 90 outposts all over the

desert areas of Rajasthan and other States;

(ii) The Government of India are maintaining a close contact with the Government of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan as also with the FAO in the matter;

(iii) The Research Unit consisting of adequate scientific personnel has been started for this purpose;

(iv) The Government of India is considering a proposal for establishment of aerial Plant Protection Unit.

3. In this Conference the need for adequate preparation for locust control in different States was also examined and the attention of the State representatives was drawn to the conditions and requirements in their respective States.

4. Government of India have not only been advising the concerned States about the Anti-Locust operations but have also materially assisted several of them in conducting campaign against locusts whenever the need for such assistance has arisen.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: In paragraph 2 (iv) of the statement, it is said that the Government of India is considering a proposal for the establishment of aerial Plant Protection Unit. May I know what steps have been taken in that direction?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: We are trying to find out suitable aerial equipment and aeroplanes. It will take some time. We cannot go very fast. I am glad to inform the House that the locust invasion has also diminished considerably and so, there is no such urgency.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know the amount set apart for this purpose in 1954-55 and 1955-56?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I have not got the information here. I would like to have notice.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: In paragraph 4, it is stated that the Government

have also materially assisted several States in successfully conducting the campaign against the locusts whenever the need for such assistance arose. May I know how many rupees worth of assistance has been given to the States?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: I have not got the value of the assistance given in rupees but I know, whenever we received any intimation from any State Government, we have given them very adequate help in the shape of sending the planes that we may have.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: It is stated that we are having the assistance of foreign governments for this purpose. May I know whether they also share the expenditure incurred in this behalf?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH: Excepting the T.C.A. which sometimes assists us by giving some technicians and insecticide, etc., no foreign Government is assisting us. It is more international co-ordination that is intended.

सूर्य ग्रहण

* ५६. श्री नवाबसिंह चौहान : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि भारतीय वैज्ञानिकों का जो दल डिप्टी डाइरेक्टर जनरल, आबजर-वेटररीज, श्री ए० के० दास के नेतृत्व में २० जून १९५५ को सूर्य-ग्रहण सम्बन्धी खोज के लिए भेजा गया था वह निरीक्षण के पश्चात् किन निर्णयों पर पहुंचा ?

†[SOLAR ECLIPSE

* 56. SHRI NAWAB SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the conclusions arrived at, after observation of the Solar Eclipse on the 20th June 1955, by the team of Indian scientists deputed for the purpose under the leadership of Shri A. K. Das, Deputy Director-General of Observatories?]

संचार उपमंत्री (श्री राज बहादुर): सूर्य-ग्रहण के सम्बन्ध में भारतीय वैज्ञानिकों द्वारा २० जून १९५५ को सीलोन में लिए गए अवलोकनों (Observations) का अध्ययन हो रहा है और अवलोकन सम्बन्धी एकत्रित सामग्री का पूर्णरूप से विश्लेषण हो पाने में अभी कुछ समय लगेगा। उस पुस्तिका की एक प्रतिलिपि, जिसमें विश्लेषण के परिणाम अंकित होंगे, प्रकाशित होते ही राज्य सभा के पटल पर प्रस्तुत कर दी जाएगी।

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): The observations on the Solar Eclipse of the 20th June 1955 made in Ceylon by the Indian scientists are being studied and it will take some time to analyse fully the observational data collected. A copy of the publication containing the results of the analysis will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha, as soon as it is ready.]

श्री नवाब सिंह चौहान : क्या मंत्री महोदय मेहरबानी कर के बताएं कि इसमें कितने व्यक्ति गए थे और उनकी क्या क्या योग्यताएं थीं ?

श्री राज बहादुर : सब के सब अपने अपने विषय के विशेषज्ञ थे और उनकी संख्या ७ थी।

श्री ज० रा० कपूर : क्या यह बात सत्य है कि इन वैज्ञानिकों के पास विद्युत शक्ति उत्पादन के पर्याप्त साधन न होने के कारण ये ग्रहण की आवश्यक तसवीरें नहीं ले सके ?

श्री राज बहादुर : एंसी कोई कठिनाई अपनी जानकारी में नहीं आई है।

श्री ज० रा० कपूर : क्या सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर गया है कि यह शिकायत समाचारपत्रों में प्रकाशित हुई, किन्तु उसका कोई खंडन अभी तक सरकार की ओर से नहीं हुआ ?

श्री राज बहादुर : जो समाचारपत्रों में निकला था वह इस सम्बन्ध में निकला था कि उन्होंने