

Reliable information about acreage of crops affected by locusts is not available.

(d) The loss of agricultural produce caused by locusts in India, as estimated by the various States concerned amounted to 20,400 tons in 1950; 14,350 tons in 1951; 19,150 tons in 1952 and 640 tons in 1953. In terms of cash value of losses can roughly be placed at 1.5 crore of rupees for the period 1950—54.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISPLACED PERSONS FROM EAST PAKISTAN

26. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons from East Pakistan who have so far been employed through the Employment Exchanges;

(b) the number of such persons employed by each Ministry of the Government of India;

(c) the number of such persons who are at present on the waiting lists of the Exchanges; and

(d) what is the nature of preference shown to such persons in offering them appointments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) 39,595 up to June 1954.

(b) The information is not available.

(c) 48,395 on the 30th June 1954; of which 28,047 were displaced persons from East Pakistan.

(d) In the matter of submissions by the Exchanges against Central Government vacancies displaced persons from Eastern and Western Pakistan enjoy a certain degree of priority. A statement showing the priorities prescribed by the Central Government for different categories of employment-seekers is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 29.]

TUBEWELL PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION

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

(a) when the Tubewell Projects Administration started functioning;

(b) the name of the place where its headquarters are located;

(c) what are the main functions of this Administration; and

(d) what is its constitution?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): (a) November 1953.

(b) New Delhi.

(c) and (d). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 30.]

OPENING OF POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES

28. SHRI KISHORI RAM: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places where—

(i) new post offices, and

(ii) new telegraph offices,

are to be opened in Bihar in the year 1954-55; and

(b) the expenditure to be incurred in establishing these post and telegraph offices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR):

(a) (i) and (ii). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, Annexure No. 31.]

(b) Rs. 2,85,000 (Rupees two lakhs and eighty-five thousand).

OPENING OF POST OFFICES

29. SHRI V. M. SURENDRA RAM: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places where new post offices were opened in Madras State in the year 1953-54; and

(b) the expenditure incurred in establishing these post offices?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR):

(a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House in due course.

CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RAILWAY LINES

30. KAZI KARIMUDDIN: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the new railway lines constructed so far in the year 1954; and

(b) the old railway lines closed to traffic during the same period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) The undermentioned new railway lines have been opened to traffic so far in the year 1954:—

1. Rail Link to Chandigarh, Northern Railway.

2. Tordi Sagar-Toda Rai Singh portion of the Sanganer Town-Deoli Extension, Western Railway.

3. Chunar - Robertsganj - Churk, Northern Railway.

4. Rajkot Town-Rajkot Junction Realignment, Western Railway.

5. Madhepura-Murliganj, North, Eastern Railway.

(b) Rangapara North-Balipara portion of the Tezpur-Balipara Railway is the only old railway line closed during this period.

OPENING OF POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES

31. KAZI KARIMUDDIN: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of—

(i) post offices, and

(ii) telegraph offices,

opened in Madhya Pradesh during the year 1953-54; and

(b) the number of—

(i) post offices, and

(ii) telegraph offices,

which are to be opened in that State in the year 1954-55?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR):

(a) (i) and (ii). During the year 1953-54, 292 post offices and 11 Posts and Telegraphs combined offices and 1 departmental telegraph office were opened in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) (i) 401 post offices,

(ii) 28 telegraph offices.

SOLAR ECLIPSE

32. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places in India where the sun's total eclipse on the 30th June 1954, was observed; and

(b) the number of foreign scientists who came to India on the occasion and the places from which they observed the sun's eclipse on that day?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR):

(a) The total solar eclipse of the 30th June 1954, was observed by a party of meteorologists at Phalodi in Rajasthan.

(b) Nil.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OFFICIAL TRAVEL ORGANISATIONS

33. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) when the next conference of the International Union of Official Travel Organisations is going to be held and at what place it is to be held;