

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: They have been able to combat and kill the locust swarms.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH: What is the minimum paid to the staff there?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: I do not know.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: Do the Government maintain a record of the locusts killed in these operations?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: We do maintain a record of the number of locusts killed.

SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: What is the number?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: This question refers to the staff and not to locusts.

IMPORT OF FERTILISERS FROM JAPAN

*47. SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have imported 900 tons of fertilisers from Japan in the month of October 1953; and

(b) if so, the purpose for which the fertilisers have been imported?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA): (a) Yes. Arrangements have been made for the import under the T. C. A. Programme of 2,500 tons of ammonium nitrate from Japan. Out of this 1,100 tons were received during the month of September 1953 and 200 tons during October 1953.

(b) For conducting storage tests and agronomic trials and also for demonstration purposes on the cultivators' fields. These experiments are being carried out under the direct control and supervision of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Is it not a fact that the fertilisers manufactured in India in the Sindri Fertiliser Factory are not fully disposed of? Under these circumstances, may I know why this import has been made?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: I want to bring it to the notice of the hon. Member that we are not manufacturing ammonium nitrate in this country. We are manufacturing ammonium sulphate. So, in order to popularise ammonium nitrate which contains more of nitrogenous matter than ammonium sulphate, we have imported this quantity from Japan under the T.C.A.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Is this necessary for the Japanese method of rice cultivation here?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: This is required for all cultivation, not only for the Japanese method of rice cultivation.

PROF. G. RANGA: At what price were they imported? Are the prices comparatively lower?

SHRI M. V. KRISHNAPPA: This import was under the T. C. A. We did not pay for it, except for the inland transit charges.

GERMAN-MAKE PASSENGER COACHES

*48. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new German-make inter and third class railway carriages were introduced on the Allahabad Section of the North-Eastern Railway with effect from August 31, 1953;

(b) the number of such carriages in use on the

(i) Allahabad Section; and

(ii) the rest of the railways; and

(c) whether these carriages form part of the 250 fully furnished passenger coaches obtained from Germany in the year 1950-51?