

and the possible consumption of fertilizers that was fixed by negotiation between each particular State and the Central Government, and it is to be expected that all cultivators who are in need of this and are likely to utilize it for the better method of cultivation would get it.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether as a result of granting these loans, the cultivators of the States concerned are enabled to use more fertilizers this year than they used to do previously?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): I think there is some misapprehension. The loan is not cash loans. The fertilizer has been given to them for distribution as loan and the price will be collected at the time of harvesting.

Shri Dabhi: Is any interest being charged on these loans?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. Interest at 3.125 per cent. is charged.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know whether the Government of India have any check on the use of the sums which are given to the State Governments?

Shri Kidwai: I said no sums have been given to the State Governments. If they can misuse the fertilizers, they are free to do so!

Shri L. N. Mishra: May I know whether it is a fact that the credit agricultural depots working under the auspices of the State Co-operative Bank of Bihar engaged in distributing fertilizers are being closed down on a large scale in the State of Bihar?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am not aware. I would like to have notice.

Shri Kakkan: On account of failure of monsoon in Madras State last year, the agriculturists are unable to repay the loans. So, may I ask the hon. Minister whether the Government will instruct the Madras Government to collect the loans in the next fiscal year?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: If the question refers to this year's loans and giving fertilizers, for that payment has not to be made, immediately. I am not aware of the previous year's situation. I would like to have notice.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether the Central Government have issued any instructions to the State Governments to the effect that fertilizers in the form of loans will not be issued to cultivators who own less than five acres of land?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir. There is no such restriction.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the accumulated stocks of fertilizers in Sindri which were causing concern in January and February of this year have been cleared as a result of the introduction of this system, and if not, how much has been cleared?

Shri Kidwai: A large stock has been distributed throughout the country. Therefore, the stocks are not so much in accumulation as they were at the time when the reports were published in the papers.

LOCUST SWARMS

*253. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any movement of locust swarms into India from Pakistan during the past four months;

(b) whether there has been any rise in the locust breeding in the desert areas of North-West India; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to fight that locust menace?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) A statement showing the steps being taken by Government to fight the locust menace is placed on the

Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 4.]

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : लोकस्ट स्वार्म का मुकाबला करने के लिए सरकार की ओर से जो प्रबन्ध किया गया है, क्या वह पर्याप्त है और ठीक तरह से काम कर रहा है ?

डा० पी० एस० बेशमुख : जी हां ।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : यहां दिल्ली में पिछले महीने जो लोकस्ट का स्वार्म आया था, उसका मुकाबला करने के लिए समय पर क्यों नहीं कोई इन्तजाम किया जा सका ?

डा० पी० एस० बेशमुख : जब यह लोकस्ट ऊपर से भागते हैं तो उस वक्त उन पर हमला करना या उनको डिस्ट्राय करना बहुत मुश्किल हो जाता है ।

सेठ गोबिन्द बास : इन टिड्डियों का इस वर्ष देश के किस २ हिस्से में आने का भय है और इस सम्बन्ध में विशेषज्ञों ने क्या कोई राय दी है ?

डा० पी० एस० बेशमुख : वह तो आये और चले भी गये हैं ।

सेठ गोबिन्द बास : मैं यह जानना चाहता था कि इस वर्ष और अधिक भय देश के किस २ हिस्से में है, इस सम्बन्ध में कोई विशेषज्ञों की राय सरकार को मिली है ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Unfortunately, the locusts can go very far. They can go right up to West Bengal, right up to Madras. They have gone to Orissa. So, hardly any State except Travancore-Cochin and Mysore are probably likely to be free from it.

डा० सुरेश चन्द्र : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि इन लोकस्ट्स पर आक्रमण करने के लिए कितने अफसर भेजाये गये हैं ?

डा० पी० एस० बेशमुख : जितने ज्यादा लोकस्ट्स होंगे उतने ही ज्यादा अफसर लगेगे ।

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: May I know if the Government have any statistics about the damage caused by these locusts?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have asked for detailed reports but from no place have any substantial damages been reported.

Shri Dabhi: May I know whether it is not possible to destroy the locusts in their breeding places?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. That is the only way we try to destroy them.

श्री राधे लाल व्यास : क्या मैं यह जान सकता हूँ कि जो पंख वाले लोकस्ट हैं उनका मारा जाना कठिन है और केवल हौपर्स को ही मारा जा सकता है ?

डा० पी० एस० बेशमुख : हां, यह बिल्कुल दुरुस्त है ।

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether any method has been found out to distinguish between Pakistan locust swarms and Indian locust swarms?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not so far.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any of the countries with whom we are in agreement for prevention of locust swarms or for killing operations, have informed us that there is an imminent danger of a great attack on India?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes, Sir. We have been told during the last few months that there is a likelihood of a very heavy invasion by locusts this year.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Which are those countries?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is an international organisation which aids us from time to time. It is not a question of any particular country. All

the countries right from Arabia to Afghanistan and including Pakistan.

Sardar Hukam Singh: My question was from which countries the attack is apprehended?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): They come via Pakistan.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is difficult to say that. They can, I believe, come sometimes directly.

Shri Veeraswamy: May I know whether there is any likelihood of the locusts moving towards the south?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Excepting Madras, the south is fairly free from locusts.

बाबू रामनारायण सिंह : अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि टिड्डियों का आक्रमण रोकने में सरकार असमर्थ है, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यदि कभी आदमियों का आक्रमण होगा तो सरकार उस को रोकने में समर्थ होगी या नहीं ?

रक्षा संगठन मंत्री (श्री त्यागी) :
जरूर ।

श्री राधे लाल व्यास : क्या माननीय मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि जैसे सन् १९४० और ४६ की साईकिल में इन टिड्डियों को मारने के लिये डिफेन्स डिपार्टमेंट से काफी मदद ली गई थी, इस वर्ष डिफेन्स डिपार्टमेंट से कोई मदद ली जा रही है, और अभी तक डिफेन्स डिपार्टमेंट ने इस सम्बन्ध में क्या किया है ?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Not only the defence personnel, but everybody is being asked to help us to the utmost. Just as we took their help last year, we are taking their help this year also far earlier than last year.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Is it a fact that the breeding ground for locusts is Iran, and the Iran Government does not help us in destroying these locusts?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: As the hon. Members may have seen in the papers, we sent some people to help the middle East countries, with the equipment, and it is being fought on an international basis.

Shri Radha Raman rose—

Mr Deputy-Speaker: Next question. We have had enough on this question.

DEMANDS OF ALL-INDIA TELEGRAPH LINE STAFF UNION

***255. Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that at the conference of the All-India Telegraph Line Staff Union held on the 24th May, 1953 at Calcutta, a demand was made that a high power tribunal be appointed to investigate into their grievances and recommend remedies;

(b) whether the Conference also urged upon Government to revise their pay and improve housing and provide medical facilities to them; and

(c) if so, whether Government have considered their demands and what their decision is regarding the same?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes. Government have seen a copy of the resolutions referred to, demanding, among other things, the establishment of a high power tribunal for looking into the grievances of the linestaff.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter is under examination and a reply will be sent to the union in due course.

Shri Gidwani: How long is it likely to take?

Shri Raj Bahadur: A copy of the resolutions was not sent to us until after we had called for it, and the