

of rice growing in Andhra, prices have gone down much below our procurement prices.

FIRST CLASS ACCOMMODATION

*396. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that first class accommodation is still being continued on some main line trains?

(b) If so, how long will it be continued?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) First Class accommodation has been confined to only 15 trains which will also be withdrawn in due course, but it is difficult to indicate the precise period for which it will be retained.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know the reason why First Class accommodation is continued?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: The main reason is to cope with the requirements of the tourist traffic.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: With the abolition of the First Class accommodation, is air-conditioned class the highest class?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagaram): This question was put before. I asked the hon. Member to choose as he pleased.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that tourists who are coming from outside travel in air-conditioned coaches? If so, where is the necessity to continue so many trains with first class?

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan: It is because there are only ten trains in which air-conditioned accommodation is provided.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Is there any proposal to re-name the Classes as First, Second and Third, instead of Second, Inter and Third?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): We cannot rename the Classes because First Class is still being retained. When First Class has been completely withdrawn, we might think of renaming the Classes.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: Let us go to the next question.

Shri Syed Ahmed: Sufficient questions have not been put so far as this is concerned.

Locusts

*397. **Shri Esvara Reddi:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how many locust swarms were sighted during the month of September, 1953?

(b) Is it a fact that in spite of control operations being in full swing, many swarms escaped destruction?

(c) Is it a fact that conditions for second generation breeding of locusts are suitable in several areas?

(d) What effective control measures do Government propose to take against locust invasion?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnaswami): (a) About thirty swarms.

(b) No.

(c) Conditions were favourable in September and October. Since then it has been too cold for second generation breeding.

(d) There is an adequate Central Anti-Locust Organisation in the desert areas of Rajasthan, PEPHU, Saurashtra, Bombay and Kutch. All other vulnerable States have also their Anti-Locust Organisations. A statement showing the steps being taken by Government to fight the menace is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 56.]

Shri Esvara Reddi: May I know the acreage infested by locust swarms