

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether this year the locust incursions were effectively fought out?

**Shri Karmarkar:** This year, firstly, they were only incipient, i.e., some of them spread themselves diffused. Secondly, there were no crops in the fields to be affected.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether, with a view to stopping these locust incursions, the Government of India took any action for fighting this locust menace in foreign countries?

**Shri Karmarkar:** This is outside my present note, but I remember we sent a mission to Iran.

**Mr. Speaker:** Questions in this respect. I think, were put several times during the last two or three months. They have got a machinery, and they work in co-operation.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** Are Government aware that swarms of locusts have appeared during the last few days in Manipur State, and what steps are Government taking?

**Shri Karmarkar:** So far as we are aware, they came in Rajasthan in May. Regarding Manipur, I shall find out.

**Shri L. J. Singh:** May I know the extent of damage done by the invasion of locusts very recently in the northern and north-eastern areas of Manipur?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to have notice.

#### REFRIGERATED STORES

**\*1715. Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of refrigerated stores in India and their locations;

(b) the capacity of the stores; and

(c) the articles that are preserved in them?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix VIII, annexure No. 21.]

(b) Average capacity of a cold storage is 13,500 mds.

(c) Seed and Table potatoes, fruits and vegetables, butter, eggs, fish and meat and other perishable articles.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know whether these stores belong to Government or are lent to Government by private agencies?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I do not think that there are Government stores, but I shall find out.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know, Sir, whether any estimate has been made regarding the extent of perishable articles and the damage done to them for want of proper storage?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I have no information at the moment.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know whether there is any development programme before the Government for increasing the capacity of these stores?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I should like to have notice.

**Shri Pateria:** Is Government keeping supervision over these refrigerator stores?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I think so, but I should like to find out.

#### MATERNITY NURSES

**\*1716. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some private organizations of New Zealand have asked for sending 60 to 100 Indian girls for being trained in that country as maternity nurses every year for a period of three years at the expense of those organizations?

(b) If so, have Government taken any decision in regard to accepting that offer?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** (a) No such request has been received by Government. It is, however, understood that a scheme is under consideration of the All-India Women's Conference for sending 60 to 100 Indian girls to New Zealand every year for a period of 2 or 3 years for training as maternity nurses, the cost being met from private donations.

(b) Does not arise.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether that scheme is entirely the concern of the All India Women's Conference, or have the Government also got anything to do with that?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** No, Sir, Government have nothing whatever to do with the offer. It is purely a