

(b) Such arrangements already exist on other Railways in sections where they are considered necessary.

LOCUST INVASION

*43. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Anti-locust Research Centre in London has forecast the likelihood of India being invaded by new locust swarms from Eastern Arabia and Persia in the month of May?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take against the invasion?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) Government are alive to the situation. They have been maintaining a Central Locust Warning Organisation since 1939. With the outbreak of the present locust cycle in 1949, this Organisation was expanded and a control wing added to it in 1950-51. Further expansion by way of staff and necessary equipment has also been effected to meet the locust menace. Full complement of equipment such as power dusting machines, land rovers, wireless sets, motor vehicles for transport and necessary insecticides are being arranged. All the vulnerable States are also building up on parallel lines their respective Anti-Locust Organisations to meet the situation. The total expenditure incurred by the Union Government on anti-locust measures during 1951-52 was about Rs. 27 lakhs.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know how many of these machines for the destruction of locusts have been lent to foreign countries?

Shri Kidwai: There is no question of lending them to foreign countries. A report has been received that locusts have invaded Persia, and it is in our interests that they should be destroyed there than be allowed to come to India. Therefore we are lending every help that we can possibly render.

Shri Kasliwal: May I know whether Pakistan is fully co-operating in the matter of destruction of the locusts?

Shri Kidwai Of course.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know what kind of help we are lending to Persia in this matter?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I know whether any research has been done

in India for the biological control of locusts?

Shri Meghnad Saha rose—

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let the hon. Minister reply.

Shri Kidwai: I think Dr. Meghnad Saha will be in a better position to answer that.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Sir, my question was to the hon. Minister.

Mr. Speaker: That is what I am telling him. We are not sitting at a conference of scientists.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD

*44. **Shri Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state in how many years India expects to be self-sufficient in her food products?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): If the targets set by Planning Commission of increased production are reached, the country should be self-sufficient by the end of the period of their Plan.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: What were the difficulties in the way of the Government which made them revise their target of becoming self-sufficient in 1952 to the time when the Plan succeeds?

Shri Kidwai: The hon. Member had asked for the target. The target is there in the Planning Commission's Report which I think was also discussed here. The target is there. Let us hope that the Planning Commission's Plan will go right and that by the end of the period of the Plan we would be self-sufficient in food.

Mr. Speaker: If I have understood the question correctly, what the hon. Member really wants is figures for 1952—what are the estimated requirements for 1952 and what is the amount of cereals expected. Is that so?

Shri Jhunjhunwala: I want to know what were the difficulties in the way of the Government which made them revise their target.

Mr. Speaker: That will be a new question

Shri Kidwai: For 1951-52 our target of production was 14.13 lakh tons. We have not yet received any report whether we have reached the target or there has been some deficiency.