

(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.

**Shri Jhunjhunwala:** What is the per capita consumption which the Government has taken in view according to the Planning Commission, for arriving at that figure?

**Shri Kidwai:** Fourteen ounces per head per day.

**Shri Jhunjhunwala:** How does it compare with the pre-war consumption of the people in India?

**Shri Kidwai:** I am not in a position to say that just now.

**Shri Chattopadhyaya:** The hon. Minister stated "if the targets set by the Planning Commission are reached", May I know from him how big that "if" is?

**Mr. Speaker:** Shrimati Kale.

**Shrimati A. Kale:** May I know whether it is a fact that Government had made a declaration that they will obtain self-sufficiency of food in 1952?

**Shri Kidwai:** I think that is a matter of past history. In that year we have had to import more grain than we imported in the previous years.

**Shrimati A. Kale:** Are we not supposed to follow the promises given by past people?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

#### CALCUTTA PORT

\*45. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) the tonnage of goods exported and imported through the Port of Calcutta in the years 1945-46 and 1951-52;

(b) the main goods handled in those two years; and

(c) the net income of the Port in those two years?

**The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri):** (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 14.]

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** What is the cause of the decrease both in imports and exports in both these years?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** The reduction is mainly due to two causes, cessation of hostilities and larger imports of food-grains in 1951-52.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether this decrease is going on gradually or it is fluctuating?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** In other commodities it has increased and in these two it has decreased.

**Shri G. P. Sinha:** What is the percentage of capital goods imported and mainly from which country?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** If you look into the statement, you will be able to calculate the percentage.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** From the statement, I find that there is a deficit towards the end of 1951-52. May I know whether the estimated revenue deficit will be met by increasing the basic river dues on the shipping of gunnies, food grains, ores, etc.?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** We propose to increase the dues on coal from 4 pies to 6 pies per maund, and we will be able to meet the deficit.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know how many complaints have been received from the shipping companies and trade interests about the shipping difficulty experienced in the river Hooghly, within the Port limits by the reason of which this deficit is incurred?

**Shri L. B. Shastri:** I am sorry, I have no knowledge.

#### IMPORT OF WHEAT AND RICE FROM CHINA AND RUSSIA

\*46. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice and wheat offered by China and Russia in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52;

(b) the quantity bought and imported during the same period; and

(c) the price of rice we had to pay in comparison with the price of rice paid to other countries during those two years (separately) for rice?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** (a) During the years 1950-51 and 1951-52 China offered 50,000 tons and 16,500 tons of rice respectively. During 1950-51 Russia made no offers. In 1951-52 Russia offered 1 lakh metric tons of wheat.

(b) The entire quantities offered were accepted and imported.

(c) The 1950-51 contract with China for rice was against barter of jute goods; while the 1951-52 contract was against cash payment. It would not be in public interest to disclose the prices paid for rice to China or to other countries. Since the qualities of rice