

**Shri Raghavaiah:** Are the Government contemplating the question of giving priority to the famine affected areas in the case of distribution of this rice imported from Burma?

**Shri Karmarkar:** The question relates to distribution. I should like to have notice.

#### LOCUST MENACE IN PERSIA

\*1960. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred by the Government of India in fighting locusts menace in Persia by sending insecticides and other equipments during the last six months?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** The total expenditure incurred by the Government of India in sending aid to Iran for fighting the locusts menace there amounts to Rs. 1,35,000, of which about Rs. 62,000, being the cost of airlift, will be reimbursed to us by the F.A.O.

**Shri Dabhi:** How far has the locust menace in India been averted by these steps?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I think it was partially affected, but I should like to have notice.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether the Government of Pakistan also has spent any amount over this?

**Shri Karmarkar:** Am I expected to answer this question relating to Pakistan?

**Mr. Speaker:** If the hon. the Minister has the information available with him, he may give it.

**Shri Karmarkar:** I have no information about Pakistan, Sir.

#### RAW JUTE

\*1961. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government of India have any pilot scheme to find out the cost of production of raw jute?

(b) If so, what progress has been made so far under that scheme and what are its details?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) The Government of India have at present no proposal to conduct a pilot survey to find out the cost of production of raw jute. The Economic Research Section of the Indian Central Jute Committee have, however, been carrying out investigations into the cost of production of jute in certain centres in the principal jute-growing areas of the country.

(b) A statement showing the cost of production of jute for the two years 1949 and 1950 in a few centres based on the investigations carried out by the Indian Central Jute Committee is placed on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(Rupees per maund)

Centre	Cost of Production of Jute	
	1949-50	1950-51
	Rs. AS. PS.	Rs. AS. PS.
Monoharpur (West Bengal)	28 5 0	49 7 0
Belakoba (West Bengal)	27 7 0	28 14 0
Purnea (Bihar)	24 4 0	26 0 0
Kendrapara (Orissa)	19 6 0	23 5 0
Nowgong (Assam)	28 5 0	25 0 0
Average	26 12 0	28 13 0

NOTE :—Adverse weather told heavily on the jute crop in 1950 (except at Nowgong) as a result of which the cost per maund was generally higher in 1951 than in the previous year. At Monoharpur, large areas had to be abandoned at the weeding stage, because of adverse weather conditions. Consequently the yield per acre there was very low, leading to high cost of production.