

डा० बी० एस० देशमुख : इस के बारे में किसी के रास्ते में गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से तो कोई रुकावट नहीं थी और न ही होगी ।

BETEL LEAVES

*1838. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the annual production and consumption of betel leaves in India?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): The required information is not available.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if betel leaves are not an article of export from this country and, if so, to what countries are they exported?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I know as a fact that betel leaves were some time back being exported to Pakistan. But so far as the countries to which they go and other details of information are concerned, they may be asked from the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if the hon Minister can give me an idea about the approximate area which is under cultivation in this respect?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: No, Sir. I have no information.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the Government is aware that one company in London was exporting betel leaves from India and whether that practice still exists?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I do not know of any such thing.

Sardar Hukam Singh: On a point of order, when a specific question is put and the answer from the Minister is that this information is not available, can any supplementary arise when the information is not available?

Mr. Speaker: Really speaking, it is not a point of order, but one of expediency, if I may say so. It is difficult for the Chair to stop all questions because, the particular information may not be available, but still it is possible that information on some in-

cidental points related to the main question may be available. Therefore, it will be better if the Minister is left to say that he has no information on the point.

Sardar Hukam Singh: My point is, should the supplementary arise from the information given or can it arise independently of any information?

Mr. Speaker: It arises not only from the answer, but it arises principally from what the question aims at. The Member wants an information and has put down a question. The Minister's information may be incomplete. It is not that the supplementaries are restricted only to the Minister's answers. It is the subject of the question which has to be taken into consideration.

JOY FLIGHTS

*1840. **Ch. Raghuraj Singh:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that arrangements have been made at some important Air ports to offer joy flights to the public; and

(b) if so, the income derived from this source at Delhi, Calcutta and Madras during 1954?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Delhi—Rs. 210.

Calcutta and Madras Nil.

Ch. Raghuraj Singh: May I know whether it is a fact that the Government is going to reduce the rates?

Shri Raj Bahadur: As a matter of fact, to begin with, it was Rs. 15 per passenger for a flight of 15 minutes, subject to a minimum number of intending fliers being 16. Then, it was reduced to Rs. 10 per passenger subject to a minimum of 15 passengers for a flight of 10 minutes. The Corporation have now decided to offer joy flights on a payment of Rs. 200 for a 21 seater Dakota irrespective of the number of passengers.

Shri Punnoose: May I know the number of air ports where these joy ride facilities were given up?

Shri Raj Bahadur: According to the Press Communique, the facilities were available at Bombay, Hyderabad, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras.

Shri Punnoose: I wanted to know the air ports where these facilities were given up.

Shri Raj Bahadur: The number of people coming is not very encouraging. We are awaiting the successful fruition of this experiment.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: What steps have Government taken to make people air-minded and to encourage joy flights?

Shri Raj Bahadur: This is a step to make them air-minded.

LOCUST CONTROL SCHEME

*1841. **Shri Ibrahim:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the progress made by the staff employed for the implementation of the Co-ordinated Scheme of Locust Control under the Technical Assistance Programme?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): The Anti-Locust co-ordinated Scheme does not operate under the Technical Assistance Programme of any foreign country, though some assistance has been received in the shape of training of personnel, vehicles, power sprayers and Dusters, wireless sets and insecticides under T.C.A. Programme.

A statement showing the progress made under the Scheme is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix IX, annexure No. 1].

Shri Ibrahim: From the statement it appears that the number of swarms coming into India have increased from year to year. May I know why the number of swarms is on the increase?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There is a cycle according to which locusts appear to move. We were, unfortuna-

tely, having a longer and larger invasions of these locusts. As they emanate from a long distance, it is impossible to say why they are on the increase.

ACCIDENTS IN MINES

*1842. **Shri Tushar Chatterjee:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of accidents which occurred in the different mines in India since January, 1954;

(b) the number of accidents in which a Government Inquiry was made; and

(c) the number of cases in which non-compliance of the provisions of the Mines Act, 1952 by respective Managements was reported?

The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali): (a) During 1954, there were 286 fatal and 4,367 serious accidents.

(b) All fatal accidents were inquired into by the officers of the Mines Department and in two cases—one at Swang Railway Colliery in January, 1954, and the other at Newton Chickli Colliery in December, 1954, Courts of Inquiry were also set up. Of the serious accidents, 672 major cases were also investigated.

(c) 276. This does not, however, include minor cases of non-compliance which were, as usual, dealt with by the Inspectorate of the Mines Department by verbal instructions and executive orders.

Shri Tushar Chatterjee: May I know what are the different natures of the violation of the Mines Act?

Shri Abid Ali: Non-compliance of the provisions of the Mines Act so far as arrangements for stowing are concerned and also many other matters.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: May I know how many of these were prosecuted and how many convicted as a result of enforcement measures?

Shri Abid Ali: We have not yet received conviction reports. Most of the cases of 1954 are still pending.