

- (ii) Telegraph offices (Rural Nil
Urban Nil)
- (iii) Combined Post and Tele-
graph offices. (Rural 6
Urban 2)

NOTE:—So far during the current financial year 8 new rural post offices have already been opened. No Telegraph office or combined Post and Telegraph office has so far been opened during the current financial year.

IMPORT OF LOCOMOTIVES, BOILERS, ETC.

106. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the number of locomotives, boilers, coaches, wagons and cranes so far imported into India during the year 1952-53; and

(b) the number of these materials supplied locally by Indian factories during the same period?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) The following locomotives, boilers, coaches, wagons and cranes were received from abroad during the current financial year upto 30-9-52:—

Locomotives.	...	81
Boilers.	...	71
Coaches.	...	32
Wagons.	...	3,723
Cranes.	...	—

(b) The number of locomotives, boilers and coaches etc. supplied by Indian factories during the current financial year upto 30-9-52:—

Locomotives.	...	27
Boilers.	...	11
Coaches.	...	68
Wagons.	...	3,071
Cranes.	...	—

FOODGRAINS (LICENSING AND PROCUREMENT) ORDER, 1952

107. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the names of States where Foodgrains (Licensing and Procurement) Order, 1952 has come into force?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): The Central Foodgrains (Licensing and Procurement) Order, 1952, has been applied so far to the States of Madras, U.P., Bihar, Saurashtra, Madhya Bharat Hyderabad and Travancore and Cochin.

LOCUST SWARMS

108. Pandit Munishwar Datt Upadhyay: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what parts of India are likely to be visited by locust swarms during this Kharif and coming Rabi seasons?

(b) What steps are being taken to check and to destroy locust swarms?

(c) What is the estimated expenditure on anti-locust operations as apprehended at present?

(d) What other departments of Government are expected to help in this emergency?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) States visited during Kharif are: Rajasthan, Punjab, PEPSU, Ajmer, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bombay. States which may be visited during Rabi are: Bombay, Saurashtra and Kutch.

(b) Staff of the Central Anti-Locust Organisation equipped with the latest machinery, insecticides and vehicles for locust control is located in more than 60 strategic places in the primary desert breeding areas. With the assistance of the Government of U. S. A. under the T.C.A. agreement, arrangements for aerial control of locusts also exist. All States liable to locust attack too have built up their anti-locust organisations for locust control in the cultivated areas. Close co-ordination between the Central and States organisations is maintained to fight the menace effectively.

(c) The estimated expenditure on anti-locust operations during the current year viz. 1952-53 is Rs. 25,17,000.

(d) Ministries of Defence, Communications, Railways, Works, Housing and Supply, States and Border Police are helping in this emergency.

JUTE AND MESTA (PRODUCTION)

109. Shri B. K. Das: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the estimate of jute and mesta production during the year 1952?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): The All-India estimate of production of jute for 1951-52 was 46.8 lakh bales. Estimates for 1952-53 are not yet available.

For Mesta regular estimates of production are not framed. The ad hoc estimate framed by the Indian Central Jute Committee was 5 lakh bales for 1950-51.

CO-OPERATIVE AND COLLECTIVE
FARMING

110. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the progress of co-operative and collective farming in India?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): A statement giving the available information is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 31]

LAND RECLAMATION

111. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state how far has the work of land reclamation, which is being carried on by the Central Tractor Organisation, proceeded?

(b) How much land has been reclaimed and where and how much more is under the plan of reclamation?

(c) Has the fertility of the soil so reclaimed been tested and if so, what are the results?

(d) When will the land reclaimed be available for agriculture?

(e) How will this land be cultivated and what will be the crops grown?

(f) To what extent is our food problem expected to be solved by the reclaimed land?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). A total area of 7,20,870 acres has so far been reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Bharat, Bhopal and Punjab. It is proposed to reclaim an additional area of approximately 9,80,000 acres by the end of the 1955-56 reclamation season in all of these States except Punjab.

(c) Tests to determine the fertility of reclaimed lands have not so far been carried out on an adequately large scale. However, crop-cutting experiments were conducted on some of the lands by the officials of the State Governments concerned, under the technical guidance of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The results of experiments conducted last year show an additional production of 10 maunds per acre from fallow lands, and 1 maund per acre from prior cultivated lands. Further experiments are being conducted to see whether these figures hold good as a general rule or whether the results obtained last year, especially in regard to cropped land, were sub-normal.

(d) Reclamation operations in the kans-infested areas extend from October of one year to the end of May next year. The reclamation operations are stopped about three weeks before the start of the monsoons, and it is possible to grow a Kharif crop immediately thereafter, although Kharif crops are not usually raised and the land is sown only in the following Rabi. There is a general belief that the raising of Kharif crops immediately after reclamation leads to re-infestation of Kans.

(e) In the Kans-infested areas, the land is mostly owned by private cultivators who, for the most part, cultivate their lands with bullock power and indigenous implements. In some cases mechanical means are also employed. In the Tarai area of Uttar Pradesh, where the Central Tractor Organisation has been doing jungle clearance work, a part of the reclaimed land has been allotted to displaced persons and ex-servicemen settled in co-operative colonies. In the rest of the Tarai area, State Farms have been established. Mechanical cultivation is carried on to a large extent in the State Farms.

The main crops grown are Rabi, Wheat, Barley, Gram and Oilseeds and Kharif—Paddy and Jowar.

(f) Other things being equal, an additional production of about one-third of a ton can be assumed in respect of newly reclaimed land. In respect of Kans-infested land on which a crop is grown notwithstanding the extra yield is still a matter for conjecture. Roughly 40 per cent. of the land reclaimed by the Central Tractor Organisation is new land.

COCONUT RESEARCH CENTRE,
KRISHNAPURAM

112. **Shri N. Sreekantan Nair:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the capital expenditure met by the Government of India in setting up a Coconut Research Centre in Krishnapuram, Travancore-Cochin State;

(b) the annual recurring expenses; and

(c) the annual return from the coconut plantation?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The Government of India has not incurred any capital expenditure on this Research Station. The Indian Central Coconut