

scheme costing Rs. 4.5 lakhs for the construction of a six feet wide cantilever foot-path on the down-stream girder of the railway bridge and the Northern Railway are expected to take up the work for execution shortly.

Agriculture Study Team of Japan

503. { Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Bishwanath Roy:
Shri Agadi:
Shri Wodeyar:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 150 on the 8th August, 1961 and state:

(a) whether Government have since received the report of the Agriculture study team of Japan;

(b) if so, the main suggestions made for improvement of cultivation; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a). Relevant extracts from the Report have been received.

(b). The team had been sent to India for the specific purpose of surveying areas suitable for the location of a few Demonstration farms to demonstrate the use of Japanese implements and techniques for increasing the yield of paddy. The team has recommended that two farms may be set up, one in Shahabad District (Bihar) and the other in Sambalpur District (Orissa).

(c). The proposal is under consideration.

Invasion of Locusts

504. Shri M. B. Thakore: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is impending danger of invasion of

locusts from Kutch Desert to West India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government of India in this regard; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Pakistan Government have requested the Government of India to collaborate to destroy the breedings of locusts in the Kutch desert?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a). So far as West ern India is concerned, there is no such possibility. Last June, locust swarms visited Kutch area from West Pakistan and locust breeding has taken place. In view of the normally expected westward migration of locust swarms, which usually commences about the end of September, some swarms may fly into West Pakistan.

(b). (i). The responsibility for locust control in this area rests with the Central Locust Warning Organisation, which has been adequately strengthened and equipped to fight the anticipated locust menace.

(ii) A wireless station was established at the Locust outpost at Bhuj for locust intelligence work.

(iii) Locust poisons and machines for the destruction of locust swarms and hoppers were placed at a number of strategic points and locust control operations have been in progress in all the infested areas.

(iv) Necessary steps are being taken to ensure that the locust breeding places are cleared immediately and hoppers destroyed in the infested areas. In all 198 villages of Kutch district were infested with locust hoppers, out of which 127