

the Central Government for the sanction of a grant for Rupees 12 lakhs to fight locust menace in the State;

(b) whether the State Government have also asked for spraying planes;

(c) whether the locusts have already appeared in the State; and

(d) if so, whether the Central Government have made available to the State the requisite help?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE):
(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Locust swarms of small dimensions entered Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jalore and Jodhpur districts between 9th and 18th July, 1968.

(d) Locust threat has occurred so far in the scheduled desert areas where control operations both by means of ground-staff and by aerial reconnaissance has been undertaken by the Locust Control and Warning Organisation of the Government of India. Since the entire cost of this organisation for locust spray and control measures is borne by the Central Government the question of giving financial assistance to the State Government does not arise.

Construction of Tubewells in Jalore District of Rajasthan

2059. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an scheme for the construction of 200 tubewells in Jalore District of Rajasthan was taken up jointly by the Centre and the State Government more than two years ago to increase irrigation potential and food production;

1239 (ai) LSD—4.

(b) whether in view of the importance of the project for the development of Jalore District, Government will expedite the studies initiated by the Exploratory Tubewells Organisation under United National Development Funds Project to ensure quickest possible implementation; and

(c) the progress made in the project during the last year and time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE):
(a) No. The Rajasthan Government proposed a scheme for constructing 200 tubewells in Jalore District on technical examination, however, it was considered necessary to conduct a detailed groundwater assessment study of the region before undertaking the scheme.

(b) and (c). The Exploratory Tubewells Organisation has undertaken a Project of Groundwater Survey in Rajasthan with technical and financial assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (Special Fund). The Jalore area has been included in the Project for Groundwater assessment studies. During the last year preliminary work including collection of Hydrological data, chemical studies of water samples, drilling and testing of test wells and observation wells carried out. The Project is likely to be completed by the end of 1970. The work in the Jalore area is being given priority under the Project.

Labour Welfare Committee

2060. SHRI D. N. DEB:
SHRI B. N. SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have appointed a Labour