

(d). Since no large scale chemical control operations against water hyacinth have been undertaken in India, question of weedicides poisoning our water does not arise. Further, approved weedicides, properly applied in the recommended doses are not likely to prove hazardous.

Announcing Price of Crops before Sowing

*381. SHRI BHAGAT RAM:
SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have declared many times its commitment to announce the price of crops before sowing;

(b) whether Government are still committed to this promise; and

(c) when will Government fulfil their commitment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c). Government are keen to announce the support prices of agricultural commodities before their respective sowing seasons and are taking necessary steps in this behalf.

Foodgrains for construction of Telephone Exchanges and Post Offices

*383. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrains will be given if the States take up works like construction of Post Offices and Telephone Exchanges buildings in rural areas and if these departments agree to pay the cash contribution to the Government; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Under the Food for Work Programme

the State Governments/Union Territories can take up such items of work for which provision exists in their budget and they can show the additionality achieved over and above their existing budget provisions for those items of work. The main objective of the Food for Work Programme is to create durable community assets in rural areas which are productive in nature of strengthen the rural infrastructure. Also the Government of India separately provide for construction of Post Offices and Telephone Exchanges according to Plan. As such it would not be possible for the States to take up the works like construction of Post Offices and Telephone Exchange buildings in rural areas under the Food for Work Programme.

Indo-Pak talk on Locust

*384. SHRI P. M. SAYEED:
SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Pak talks on locust situation in the sub-continent were held on 18th February, 1979;

(b) if so, the main subjects discussed;

(c) the decisions arrived at; and

(d) to what extent the decisions will help the Indian farmer?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) The Indo-Pakistan bilateral meeting on locust control was held on the 5th and the 6th March, 1979 at New Delhi, and not on the 18th February, 1979.

(b). The main subjects discussed were:

(i) The locust situation in India, Pakistan and other neighbouring countries and likely locust developments in the near future.

(ii) Locust control potentials available with India and Pakistan.

- (iii) Review of bilateral arrangements.
- (iv) Special survey of the Indo-Pakistan border areas and special border meetings.
- (v) FAO assistance in our control efforts.
- (c). The following decisions were arrived at:
- (i) In spite of the best efforts being made to control infestation in the Arabian Peninsula some escapes of locust swarms may occur and eventually affect the locust situation in India and Pakistan and, therefore, anti-locust organisations of the respective country *must be kept alert and be geared up to meet the challenge.*
- (ii) Wireless linking of Karachi with Delhi/Jodhpur should be expeditiously effected for quick exchange of locust information.
- (iii) Both countries should expedite implementation of proposals to strengthen their anti-locust organisations in respect of staff, transport and communication facilities and also to provide suitable amenities and incentives to the staff engaged on anti-locust operations.
- (iv) Both countries should allow their respective aerial units to conduct locust control and surveys close to the Indo-Pak border and to overlook any inadvertent crossing of the border on reciprocal basis.
- (v) During the period of gregarious locust activity, daily news bulletins on the All India Radio and Radio Pakistan should be broadcast.
- (vi) The special locust border meetings between the locust officers of the two countries should be continued, as in the past.
- (vii) F.A.O. be requested to continue its assistance for special surveys of the Indo-Pakistan border areas.
- (d) If, as a result of the above-mentioned coordinated efforts, locust attacks are effectively handled in the scheduled desert areas itself, the farmers would be saved from the depredations of locust attack on their crops.

केरल सरकार द्वारा नारियल तथा नारियल का तेल खरीदा जाना

3601. श्री दयाराम शाक्य : क्या कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

[(क) क्या केरल सरकार ने नवम्बर, 1978 में इकनामी फार्म केरल से नारियल तथा नारियल का तेल खरीदने की इच्छा व्यक्त की थी और इस सम्बन्ध में बातचीत भी हुई थी ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो केन्द्रीय सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में क्या निर्णय किया है और केरल सरकार ने कितनी मात्रा में नारियल तथा नारियल का तेल खरीदा ?

कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री (श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला) : (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं होता।

Survey conducted in Kerala by Archaeological Survey of India

3602. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Archaeological Survey of India has not yet conducted detailed survey of all districts in Kerala;

(b) if not the details thereof and reasons; and

(c) when the whole survey is reported to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) and (b). A detailed survey of four Districts of Kerala viz. Trivandrum, Quilon, Allepy and Ernakulam, has already been completed while five districts viz. Cannanore, Kozhikode, Kottayam, Trichur and Palghat have been