

करें। इन सब बातों को सामने रख कर प्रागे की कार्यवाही की जाएगी।

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Locust menace in Rajasthan

+

SNQ. 1. SHRI MEETHA LAL

MEENA:

SHRI N. K. SOMANI:

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH:

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

(a) whether the locust have stormed most parts of Rajasthan especially Jaisalmer District;

(b) whether they have settled down and started laying eggs; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Central Government to help the State Government and the farmers to get rid of this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) to (c) Four locust swarms have entered India from the West Asia and egg-laying has been reported from some villages in the district of Barmer, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Jalore. Necessary control measures have been taken as follows:--

(i) egg-pods have been marked out and emergence is being watched for destruction;

(ii) insecticides and equipment have been kept ready on the spot in the affected villages to be used as soon as emergence takes place; and

(iii) a Government aircraft has been used for reconnaissance.

श्री मीठा लाल : भगवान की कृपा से और किसानों की मेहनत से इस साल फसल बड़ी अच्छी हुई है लेकिन अब इस सरकार के

समय पर प्रयास न कर ने के कारण फसल नष्ट हो रही है, बड़ी फसलें नष्ट हो रही हैं, और इसका नतीजा यह निकल रहा है कि किसानों का भविष्य भ्रंशकारमय हो रहा है। राज्य सरकार ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से इन टिड्डी दलों की रोकथाम के लिए कुछ साधन उपलब्ध किये जाने की मांग की है और केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कहा है कि वह इस पर विचार करेगी मंत्री महोदय ने उत्तर में बताया है कि चार टिड्डी दल आए हैं जब कि वास्तविकता यह है कि छः टिड्डी दल आ चुके हैं और सारा उत्तर पश्चिमी राजस्थान इन टिड्डी दलों से घिर गया है। जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन टिड्डीयों की रोकथाम के लिये भारत सरकार के टिड्डी दल विभाग और राजस्थान के कृषि विभाग के कितने कर्मचारी इस कार्य में लगे हुए हैं और इन को नष्ट करने के लिये किन-किन साधनों का उपयोग किया जा रहा है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We have a very extensive organisation. First of all, in those areas we have about 34 permanent locust posts to watch the movements of locusts as and when they take place. Moreover, we have about 54 wireless sets. Then, we have about 150 vehicles, jeeps, etc., equipped with automatic spraying devices, and 1,500 tons of pesticides and 10,000 phials and equipment for spraying etc. are kept ready. Even one-tenth of this equipment is not being used at the moment. These swarms have entered our country; our arrangements are adequate to meet the situation. We saw some swarms entering from Pakistan yesterday, and aerial spraying has started yesterday. I think the situation is completely under control and we think we will be in a position to meet the situation adequately.

श्री मीठा लाल मीना : यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार और राजस्थान राज्य स का ने भलग-भलग कितने रुपये खर्च किये हैं तथा इन का कुछ काम क्या ठेकेदारों को भी दिया गया है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: This is a central organisation and we have adequate budget provision. Annually we provide about Rs. 15 lakhs but if there is any need for more funds. Financial difficulties would not come in the way of meeting the locust menace.

श्री श्रीलाल शिन्डे : मैं ने यह भी जानना चाहता था कि कुल काम ठेकेदारों की मार्फत भी क्या हो रहा है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: So are adequate, I do not think that questions are adequate, I do not think that question will arise.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI: In the beginning of June this year, the FAO had sent a warning to about 40 nations which are involved, warning them against the invasion of locusts. I would like to know whether the Government of India on their own have made a long-term study because the attack of locusts follows a particular cycle, and in view of the fact that one tin of locusts in a single day each eat away as much of foodgrains that are required for 250 people. And the second aspect of the problems is that this question needs some sort of international co-operation between India and Pakistan and certain Arab countries. Have any steps been taken or are being taken to get into touch with the other nations so that a concerted action against the locusts not only to meet the present menace but for the future also may be taken.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We are in touch with many of the countries of West Asia and some of the countries of Africa. In fact, there is a Commission for controlling desert locusts in the FAO and we are a member of that body along with about 60 other countries. We get advance information from those countries. Not only that. Some of the countries take others' assistance, training, etc. The co-ordination is there; the training and

equipment—everything is there. I think we are very well equipped to meet the locust menace.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI: Have you made any long-term study into the cycles and recurrence of attacks on your own?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Studies are continuously being made. In fact when the swarm was noticed in Afghanistan, we started taking action to destroy them.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH: After the warning by FAO, a 285,000 dollar emergency programme was launched under the UN Development programme May I know when the FAO report was received, how much money was received by the Government of India and how much money has been given to Government of Rajasthan for fighting this menace?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: The Commission has authorised FAO to spend 100,000 dollars in other countries. As far as our arrangement are concerned, they are financed by ourselves.

श्री श्रीलाल शिन्डे : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत वर्ष पर पाकिस्तान की यह बुरी निगाह क्यों है ? टिड्डी दल भी आयें तो पाकिस्तान से और पलटनें भी आयें तो पाकिस्तान से । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि टिड्डी दलों के आने की सूचना मंत्री महोदय को कब मिली ? पेपरों में बड़ी जोर शोर से आया था दो चा दिन तक यह । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन को रोकने के लिए सरकार ने क्या उपाय किया और पहले क्यों नहीं किया । इन टिड्डी दलों को उस ने वापिस पाकिस्तान क्यों नहीं भेजा ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I wish the hon. member can do it. If he can do it, we can help him.

श्री श्रीलाल शिन्डे : मेरे प्रश्न का उत्तर नहीं आया है । बोर्डस सिन्कोरिटी क्या करती है ?

श्री श्रीकार लाल बोहरा : एक तो हमारा दुर्भाग्य यह है कि राजस्थान का जो इलाका है वह सीमा का इलाका है दूसरा यह है कि रेगिस्तानी इलाका है और तीसरा यह है कि वहाँ पर वर्षा साल भर में तीन चार या पांच इंच ही होती है। टिड्डी दल जब आते हैं तब न केवल जैसलमेर, बाड़मेर, बलिक राजस्थान के दो तिहाई हिस्से में छा जाती हैं। और काफी नुकसान होता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस समस्या की राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर जांच की गई है और टिड्डी दल बार-बार न आएँ इसकी व्यवस्था की गई है? अब आगे उन को रोकने के बारे में आप क्या उपाय मोच रहे हैं?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: The locusts are breeding up in West Asian countries. Unless they are controlled there, it is very difficult to check them. But we are taking all necessary steps to destroy them in our country. At the moment, we do not apprehend any major damage to our crops from the locusts.

SHRI RANGA: Have Government devised any plan by which they would be able to give some relief to the affected kisans whose crops have been destroyed or are likely to be destroyed and if so, to what extent?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: At the moment, there is no possibility of our crops getting destroyed. If some development takes place, we shall certainly watch the situation. We have some pattern of assistance in the case of natural calamities.

श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : अन्तराष्ट्रीय कोआपरेशन हम लोगों का टिड्डी दलों की सूचना देने के बारे में चल रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने कभी इस बात का प्रयत्न किया है कि टिड्डियाँ मुकम्मिल तौर पर दुनिया से खत्म कर दी जायें, इस सिलसिले में भी अन्तराष्ट्रीयकोआपरेशन हो?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: The coordination is not only in regard to

giving information. It is also in regard to checking breeding of locusts. Whether tota eradication is possible, it is difficult for me to say.

श्री प्रेम चन्द धर्मा : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि टिड्डी दलों के और किन-किन सूबों में जाने की सम्भावना है, क्या इस की सूचना सरकार के पास है और अगर है तो इस के बारे में वह क्या इंतजाम कर रही है?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Normally the movement of locusts takes place in the direction of Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana and sometimes UP. But we think that if the present trend continues, we shall be in a position to kill them in Rajasthan area itself.

श्री नृकार चन्द कछवाय : जिस किसी भी देश से टिड्डी दल आते हैं, क्या सरकार इस बात का प्रयत्न करेगी कि ये टिड्डी दल हमारे देश में घुसने ही न पायें और पहले ही उन को समाप्त कर दिया जाए? अभी मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि चार दल आए हैं जब कि हमारी जानकारी यह है कि छः दल आए हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन में से आप ने कितने दलों को समाप्त किया है?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: So far we have identified six. They are laying eggs. We have already started killing operations and I think there is a reasonable chance of success.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Radio-Telephone Link between India and Nepal

*242. **SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO:** **THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reached an agreement with the Government of Nepal to establish a radio-telephone link between the two countries;