

Shri Ranga: May I know whether any quotas are fixed for admission from different Centres at Coimbatore, and whether it is proposed to recognise similar Agricultural Colleges in other States also for post-graduate work?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: There are five institutions which we have taken up for such a treatment. They are: the Pusa Institute, the Agricultural College, Ludhiana, the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, the Agricultural College, Hirangoda, and the Agricultural College, Nagpur.

There is no specific quota for each particular State, but wherever institutions are taken up for this development, they will be entitled to admit from that State half the number and half will come from outside.

Shri Tangamani: May I know when these forty post-graduate students will be taken up, whether it will be from 1959; and, if so, whether the State has got enough staff to provide for this post-graduate course?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It will of course depend upon the staff, but we expect the date for starting is 1-9-58.

Shri Ranga: How would the students be selected? Would the selection be merely on the basis of a local advisory committee or on the basis of an inter-State advisory committee on which the Central University, that is the Pusa Institute, would also be represented?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is left to the State Government to arrange for that.

Shri Ranga: In view of the fact that only five institutions are being recognised in this manner to serve all-India purposes, would Government consider the advisability of not restricting the selection of students merely to the local Governments?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have laid down the conditions. We have sufficient confidence in the State Government that it will not do anything unjust.

Mr. Speaker: He only wants to know whether there is any arrangement.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): We shall bring Mr. Ranga's point of view to the attention of the State Governments. I see some force in it.

Jute Crop

*1243. **Shri B. C. Mullick:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reports from any State regarding damage of jute crop by insects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Cooperation (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

Reports of damage to jute crop in the following jute growing States have been received:—

West Bengal.

Owing to protracted drought and intense heat wave during the jute season this year, there was widespread incidence of semi-looper and hairy-caterpillar. The incidence of jute pest was particularly heavy in the districts of Nadia, 24 Parganas, Murshidabad, Howrah and Hooghly. Control operations were undertaken over an area of about one lakh acres. With the advent of monsoon, the epidemic fury of insect attack abated to an appreciable extent. It is estimated that the loss of crop would be about 10 per cent.

Assam.

Reports of attack of hairy-caterpillar and semi-looper were received by

the Jute Development Staff and prompt measures were taken to combat the pests. Field staff treated 4150 acres of jute land for controlling the pests.

Orissa.

Jute crop has been badly affected by semi-looper during the current year. Adequate plant protection measures have been taken in the affected jute growing areas of the State. It is estimated that the loss will be 2 to 3 per cent of crop in the entire State.

U.P.

Attack by semi-looper was reported in different tracts in about 500 acres. Control measures were taken and dusting with 5 per cent and 10 per cent B.H.C. was arranged by the field staff.

Shri B. C. Mullick: I find from the statement that there was an attack of hairy-caterpillar and semi-looper on the jute crop in Assam. May I know whether any damage was caused thereby to the jute crop in Assam?

Mr. Speaker: What is the extent of the damage? That is what he wants to know.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far as Assam is concerned I do not think there has been much damage.

Shri Hem Barua: It is said that hairy-caterpillars and semi-loopers have destroyed the jute crop to a certain extent in four States; and out of the four States, in respect of three States the percentage of damage caused to the crops is given, but about Assam the percentage is not given. Is it because of the fact that the State Government could not collect it or the Central Government did not want it?

Mr. Speaker: Or it is negligible. The hon. Minister said there is not much of it, really no damage.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, the damage is negligible.

Mr. Speaker: Why should the hon. Member increase the damage?

Shri Hem Barua: Sir, the percentage is given in the other cases—1 per

cent, 2 per cent. etc. That is why I asked.

Thefts in G.P.O., New Delhi

*1244, Shri Tangamani: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to refer to the replies given to Unstarred Question No. 2638 on the 23rd April, 1958 and Starred Question No. 174 on the 18th August, 1958 regarding thefts in G.P.O. New Delhi and state:

(a) the steps so far taken to investigate the cases; and

(b) whether Government propose to hold a non-departmental enquiry into the repeated thefts in the G.P.O. New Delhi?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) The Police have treated both these cases as untraced. One of the employees of the Treasury Contractor who was suspected in both the cases has been removed by him. The sum of Rs. 1,000 the loss in one case has been made good by the Treasury Contractor. Action is being taken to recover the amount of Rs. 8,000, the loss in the second case also, from the Treasury Contractor.

(b) The Police have already enquired into the cases.

Shri Tangamani: The loss on 6-11-57 was Rs. 8,000 and the loss on 6-7-58 is Rs. 1,000. In view of the fact that within six months similar thefts have taken place, may I think whether Government will consider the question of a non-departmental enquiry, apart from police investigation?

Shri S. K. Patil: This question has been replied. The enquiry has been non-departmental, because it has been handed over to the police, and the police have said it is untraced. Therefore, the non-departmental enquiry is there already.