

(b) The Cafeterias organised are proving very popular and every meal taken there would mean consequent saving of cereals.

LOCUSTS

*374. **Shri J. N. Hazarika**: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Helicopters to help fight locusts have been purchased and if so at what cost;

(b) whether the States have so far agreed to bear any unforeseen costs to fight the locusts on the lines recommended by the expert committee; and

(c) whether anti-locust organizations have since been set up and equipped in various States to meet any emergency?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) No.

(b) West Bengal, Coorg, Delhi and Bhopal have accepted liability for their shares of the cost of the co-ordinated Locust Scheme for 1952-53 recommended by the Expert Locust Committee in March, 1952. Madras and Madhya Bharat have not agreed to contribute their shares. The other States are still considering the matter.

(c) Anti-Locust Organisations already exist in almost all the States; they are being further strengthened on the recommendations of the above referred Expert Committee and Inter-State Anti-Locust Conference which met in March, 1952.

POST OFFICES IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR

*375. **Sofi Mohd. Akbar**: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the number of Post and Telegraph offices in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir State?

(b) How many of these have been opened during the last four years, indicating the names of places where they were opened?

(c) How many more, if any, Post and Telegraph offices are proposed to be opened in the State during the year 1952-53?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). I lay on the Table of the House a statement giving the information. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 33]

(c) No Post and Telegraph Offices are due to be opened.

RICE (REQUIREMENTS)

*376. **Shrimati Renu Chakravarty**: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what is the total All-India requirements of rice on the consumption basis of 16 oz. per capita per day?

(b) Are special efforts being made to secure rice from countries like China, Thailand, Burma and the Far East to cover our production deficit and fulfil the demands of our rice-eating States?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) It is only a portion of our population which is predominantly rice eating and therefore calculation of requirements at 16 oz. of rice per head for the whole population would be misleading. What the hon. Member perhaps would like to know is the amount of rice required if the rice eaters got 16 ounces per head and the mixed rice-wheat-millets eaters got the same proportion of rice on a total cereal ration of 16 oz. per head as they are used to at present. The figure would be 28 million tons.

(b) Yes.

अन्नाव-माषो गंज रेलवे-लाइन

*३७७. श्री वी० डी० त्रिपाठी : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या अन्नाव-माषोगंज-वालामऊ रेलवे लाइन के निर्माण का काम हाथ में ले लिया गया है या नहीं ?

(ख) यदि निर्माण का काम पहले ही शुरू हो चुका है, तो इस में कितनी प्रगति हुई है ?

(ग) यदि शुरू नहीं हुआ है, तो इसने कब शुरू होने की संभावना है, और

(घ) कथित निर्माण के पूरा होने में कितना समय लगेगा और इसके कब पूरे होने की आशा है ?