

(b) how many persons are from peasant stock among those who received training; and

(c) what special care is being taken to recruit peasants' sons for this training?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) 19 since 1957-58.

(b) The records maintained do not provide this information.

(c) At the time of selection, care is taken, to give preference to belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward communities subject to the candidates fulfilling the prescribed qualifications.

Locust Control

765. Shri Dasaratha Deb: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement was signed between the Government of India and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation for conducting operational research on locust control in the Indo-Pakistan border area;

(b) the estimated expenditure which is likely to be incurred on this project in the current financial year;

(c) how this expenditure would be met; and

(d) when the scheme is expected to operate?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to the Agreement, the Government of India will have to bear the expenditure on account of petrol, oil and lubricant for the aeroplanes to be used by the operational Team, propulsion charges and maintenance of the ground transport and other miscellaneous facilities. The expenditure to be incurred thereon is estimated at Rs. 55,000 and

the same would be met out of the sanctioned budget grant of the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage.

(d) The scheme is to operate with effect from the 12th August, 1962.

Theft of Telegraph Wire

766. Dr. L. M. Singhvi: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss of telegraph wire on account of thefts during the year 1961-62; and

(b) the measures being taken to curtail these losses from such widespread pilferage?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri B. Jagavati): (a) The total loss of telegraph wire on account of thefts during 1961-62 was 2,29,389 Kgms valued at Rs. 12,57,840/-.

(b) The question is essentially one of Law and Order. The thefts are brought to the notice of the respective States Governments and close liaison is being maintained by Circle authorities with State Police authorities to apprehend the culprits. In addition, the following steps have also been taken:—

- (1) Increase of liability to punishment for the offence.
- (2) Replacement of copper wire by copper weld wire in theft affected areas and
- (3) Replacement of overhead lines by underground cables on the main trunk routes.

Heart Disease

767. Shri K. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the preliminary studies carried out in the Departments of Medicine and Pathology at S.N. Medical College, Agra.