

(b) the names of the important plants which cause denitration of soil; and

(c) whether any study has been made of the growth and spread of weeds like *Carthamus Oxyacantha* in new regions and what, if any, are the control measures worked out?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) No precise information is available on an All-India basis regarding the extent of impoverishment of cultivable soil caused by the growth of weeds. From small scale experiments conducted at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, it has been estimated that weeds are responsible for the reduction of yield in wheat to the extent of 25 to 30 per cent.

(b) All plants, during their growth remove nitrogen from the soil. Crops like sugarcane, sorghum, maize, toria and sarson generally make heavier demand of soil nitrogen. The leguminous plants also remove nitrogen but a small proportion is returned to the soil from their roots where atmospheric nitrogen as fixed by the help of bacteria in the root nodules.

(c) Some work has been done on the growth, and spread of *pohli* (*Carthamus oxyacantha*) on the new land of Delhi villages. Spraying the plants with modern hormonal weedicide like 2,4-D*, 2,4,5-T and M.C.P.A.* just before flowering has been found to destroy the plants completely.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has prepared a model scheme for Research on eradication of weeds by the application of Synthetic weedicides of the hormone type. But it is too early to expect any tangible result at this stage.

*2,4.D=Dichlorophenoxy-acetic acid.

M.C.P.A.=methyl-chloro-phenoxy-acetic acid.

2,4,5-T=2,4,5-trichloro-phenoxy-acetic acid.

PRODUCTION OF POMEGRANATE FRUIT

20. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated annual production of pomegranate fruit in India;

(b) the percentage of this fruit that is destroyed before it ripens by the larvae of the pest *Virachola isocrates* (the *annar* butterfly);

(c) the measures taken, if any, in fighting this pest and the measure of success achieved during the years from 1950 to 1954; and

(d) the estimated quantity of fruits destroyed by this pest in (i) *psidium guajava* and (ii) *Citrus aurantium*?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (d). A brief statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 22.]

LAC INDUSTRY

21. Dr. Satyawadi: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the progress made in the investigation in different branches of lac cultivation during the year 1953-54; and

(b) the progress made, if any, in promoting the lac industry in the State of Punjab during 1953-54?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). A note stating the position is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 23.]

वायरलेस ट्रांसमिटर्ज की बरामदगी

२२. श्री मगन लाल बागड़ी : क्या संचार मंत्री १६ दिसम्बर, १९५३ को पूछे गये तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या ९९४ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि वायरलेस ट्रांसमिटर्ज के अवैध रूप से चलाए जाने के सम्बन्ध में की गई जांच का क्या फल निकला ?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): A statement furnishing the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 24.]

CONSUMPTION OF SUGAR IN PUNJAB

23. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the total consumption of sugar in the Punjab during 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Figures of actual consumption of sugar in the Punjab are not available, but on the basis of the figures of despatches reported by the sugar factories, the total quantity of sugar made available to the State of Punjab during the years 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54 was as under:

1951-52	76,464 tons
1952-53	87,281 ,,
1953-54 (upto 31-7-54) ..	78,700 ,,

CENTRAL OR U. N. ASSISTANCE TO THE PUNJAB

24. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any assistance has been given to the State of Punjab by the Central Government or the United Nations for the development of child welfare and maternity programmes during 1952-53 and 1953-54?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): No assistance was given by the Government of India to the State of Punjab for the development of child welfare and maternity programmes during 1952-53 and 1953-54.

A statement showing the supplies and equipment obtained from United Nations Children's Fund for the State of Punjab for this purpose is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 25.]

PHONOGRAM

25. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state the names of places in Punjab where the phonogram system has been introduced?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): The names of places in Punjab where the phonogram System is available are given below:

1. Ambala City C.O.
2. Ambala C.T.O.
3. Amritsar C.T.O.
4. Bhatinda D.T.O.
5. Chandigarh D.T.O.
6. Ferozepur D.T.O.
7. Faridabad C.O.
8. Hoshiarpur D.T.O.
9. Jullundur D.T.O.
10. Jagadhri C.O.
11. Ludhiana D.T.O.
12. Nangal D.T.O.
13. Simla C.T.O.
14. Yamuna Nagar C.O.

COLOMBO TECHNICAL COOPERATION SCHEME

26. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of the hospitals which have so far received aid in terms of money or equipment under the Colombo Plan Technical Co-operation Scheme; and

(b) the total amount of aid received by them?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) No hospital has received aid in terms of money under the Colombo Plan. Only the Irwin Hospital, Delhi has so far received aid in the form of equipment.

(b) The approximate value of the equipment received by the Irwin Hospital, Delhi, is £556.

PROCUREMENT OF LOCOMOTIVES AND WAGONS

27. Shri Gidwani: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the decisions arrived at in the meeting of the Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee of the Western Railway held in Bombay on