

for effectively preventing the hiring or procuring of vehicles for the free conveyance of electors. While it may be possible to make the provisions of the law in this respect more effective, it is not proposed to provide free conveyance to voters living more than two miles from the polling stations; moreover under the recent directions of the Election Commission to the States where mid-term elections have been or will be held, by and large no polling station has been or will be situated at a distance of more than two miles from any voter's residence.

(b) It would not be practicable to issue identity slips to all the voters on account of the large size of the electorate. The cost involved will also be prohibitive. Besides, it can never be certain that the identity slips for individual electors will be actually handed over to the right persons with the result that impersonation would be facilitated.

**Dismissal of Depot Managers and Assistants of D.M.S.**

2134. SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations and memoranda regarding indiscriminate and arbitrary dismissals of the Depot Managers and Assistants of the Delhi Milk Scheme have been received from the persons concerned and from the various Unions; and

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted into the various charges and allegations levelled by these employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Fifteen representations have been received against the terminations of services of the Depot staff.

(b) Yes, Sir.

1239 (ai) LSD-6.

**Warning Regarding Locust Attack**

2135. SHRI D. N. PATODIA:  
SHRI MEETHA LAL  
MEENA:

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

(a) whether the Food and Agriculture Organization has issued a warning to Government about the threat of a massive locust attack on this country;

(b) the date by which the locust attack is likely to take place;

(c) whether the FAO has launched any programme to check the menace; and

(d) the programme of the Government in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). Food and Agriculture Organization reported in May this year a serious locust situation developing in the Arabian Peninsula and the adjoining areas of Africa. Consequently, a serious invasion of locusts during the summer months was apprehended. Since then four locust swarms have actually entered the Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Jalore Districts of Rajasthan between the 9th and 18th July, 1968.

(c) A special programme involving a cost of \$2,85,000 has been launched by FAO with the assistance from UNDP to curb the present locust outbreak over the entire region.

(d) The Locust Warning and Control Organization, with headquarters at Jodhpur has a regular programme of survey and control of locusts in the desert areas of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana. There are 34 locust outposts, located at different strategic points. This organization is equipped with 15,000 tonnes of insecticides, 10,000 pieces of application equip-

ment and 150 vehicles and 54 wireless sets. Arrangement for aerial survey and control also exists. Besides, as a Member of the FAO Commission for controlling desert locusts, Government of India participates in the emergency locusts control operations, undertaken by the Commission.

#### Department of Parliamentary Affairs

2136. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the role being played by his Department in co-ordinating the activities of the various Ministries in so far as their work in Parliament is concerned;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the Ministries are not adequately cooperating with the Department of Parliamentary Affairs; and

(c) the proposals for bringing about improvement in the work of the Department?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) In exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (3) of Article 77 of the Constitution, the President has allotted the following functions to be performed by the Department of Parliamentary Affairs:

- (1) Dates of summoning and prorogation of the two Houses of Parliament; dissolution of the Lok Sabha; President's Address to Parliament.
- (2) Planning and co-ordination of legislative and other official business in both Houses.
- (3) Allocation of Government time in Parliament for discussion of motions given notice by Members.
- (4) Liaison with Leaders of Groups and Deputy Chief Whips.

- (5) Lists of Members for Select and Joint Committees on Bills.
  - (6) Appointment of Members of Parliament on Committees and bodies set up by Government.
  - (7) Functioning of Informal Consultative Committees of Members of Parliament for various Ministries.
  - (8) Implementation of assurances given by Ministers in Parliament.
  - (9) Government's stand on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.
  - (10) Secretarial assistance to the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.
  - (11) Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament Act.
  - (12) Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act.
  - (13) Advice to Ministries on procedural and other Parliamentary matters.
  - (14) Co-ordination of action by Ministries on the recommendations of general application made by Parliamentary Committee.
  - (15) Officially sponsored visits of Members of Parliament to places of interest.
  - (16) Matters connected with powers, privileges and immunities of Members of Parliament.
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) In view of (b) above, question does not arise.