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(*e*) whether there is any particular season marked out for leaving the lands vacant or is it enough if the land is left vacant for a sufficient length of time in the year without reference to season;

(*f*) whether there is any harm in allowing the plants on the land for a month or two longer in case the ryots agree to leave the land vacant for a sufficient period after the plants are removed;

(*g*) whether some alteration cannot be made in the date fixed for the removal of the plants, so as to allow the ryots to get the benefit of the second crop and also avoid the evil which it is intended to counteract by the order now in force;

(*h*) what parts of the Coimbatore district are affected by the pest; and

(*i*) whether the operation of the Act and the order issued thereunder cannot be confined to the parts of the district or taluks actually affected.

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The date was fixed with due regard to the season, so as to allow of the fields remaining bare of cotton for a period of two months before the next cotton crop was sown.

(*c*) The Government are aware that some individual losses are unavoidable to save the larger losses by disease.

(*d*) Two months, preferably.

(*e*) Yes; the close season should precede the sowing season which is ordinarily at the beginning of the north-east monsoon.

(*f*) & (*g*) The dates cannot be altered. In the Coimbatore district except on the extreme eastern border the season for growing Cambodia cotton is practically uniform and the postponement in some individual cases will frustrate the utility of the measure.

(*h*) The entire district excluding the taluk of Kollegal.

(*i*) This is the case at present.

Mr. T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"May I know what is the period for which the ryot will have to leave the land vacant?"

The Hon'ble Mr. K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU:—"As far as my present experience goes, two months are supposed to be necessary. The ground suggested will be taken up by the Government for enquiry."

Donation to the Tubercular Institute.

26 *Q.*—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state—

(*a*) what has been done with the donation of Rs. 50,000 by M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib M. C. T. Muttayya Chettiyar Avargal to build a Tubercular block attached to the Tubercular Institute at the Spur Tank, Madras; and

(*b*) what the cause of delay is in constructing the block.

A.—(*a*) A sum of Rs. 25,000 representing one-half of the amount of the donation has been received and this has been placed in fixed deposit with the Bank of Madras.

(*b*) The block in question forms part of the proposed new General Hospital buildings at the Spur Tank. Under existing rules, construction cannot be undertaken until the whole scheme has received the sanction of the Secretary of State. Detailed estimates for portions of the scheme are not yet complete.