

## **EXAMINING LOCUST INVASION IN INDIA FROM A LEGAL PERSPECTIVE**

By- Saumya Tripathi



India is one of the countries which is famous for its agricultural purpose and this time Locust is working as an eclipse for the farmers. Locust is affecting large number of crops and which is directly affecting to the farmers as well as the economy of the country. Such an invasion on a wider scale is termed as a 'locust plague'. Locust plague refers to a situation when the attacks on the crop by these trans- boundary insects belonging to the family of the grasshopper's wrecks in the economy.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that in on day a locust swarm of the square kilometer nearly eats the same amount of food 35,000 people.

This locust is not just creating harm in the India but all over the world and destroying crops of every nation. In February this year Pakistan had declared a nationwide emergency in light of a massive desert locust plague in the eastern parts of the country. Even in our country locust has destroyed many places like Gujrat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh among the most affected one.

There are legal measures on this like there is act known as Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914 supported by the Plant Quarantine Order 2003. But the problem arises that the Locust word has not specifically been mentioned under this act instead of this it uses a phrase 'any insect, fungus, or other pest. On the other hand, there is an act East Punjab Agricultural Pests, Diseases and Noxious Weeds Act (1949) is one of the legislations which explicitly mentions the term 'locust' in its section 4(1)(2). Then if the locust attack is been done then one can also take help from the Disaster Management Act, 2005 which is applicable over whole of the India.

In the N.D. Jyal v. Union of India, it was cleared by the Supreme Court that Disaster management means all aspects of planning, coordinating and implementing all measures which are necessary to prevent minimize overcome or to stop the spread of a disaster upon the people or any property and includes all stages of rescue and immediate relief.

As there are many things that specified under the law but a few more in need is that things should be more clearly specified in the act that if anyone will face any type of problem then how can they get relief of that. However, our Ex- PM Lal Bahadur Shastri gave us the slogan of “Jai Javaan Jai Kisaan” signifying the importance of a farmer in popular Indian imagination and its high time we give their much-needed value.