

is the same. I wish that I could extend the scheme to all the farmers. But the only question is the viability. That is the crux of the problem. And I would like to have the opinion of all the Members here, how to operate it and how to determine the losses, how much input is to be there, how much should be there for pest control and plant protection, how much for watering, how much yield is expected and also, how to determine what sort of indemnity bond is to be there and so on. That is the problem. It has not been solved to my satisfaction, nor to anybody's satisfaction. We have to evolve something which we can hold to and benefit the farmers. If I put it that we insure it, from the Government's side, that is not possible. Already there are Rs. 700 crores involved in it. I will put it to all. There have been bunglings and some complaints are there about the assessment problem. How do we assess it? We pick cotton three times or four times and after three times you can do it. That is what they do. That is the problem we have to sit together and find a viable via media, a scheme which can help and be of some benefit to the farmers. That is what we want.

PROF. UMMA-REDDY VENKATESH-WARLU: My question has not been answered.

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that it is not feasible to have a village only for computation.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: One of the best cotton growing countries is India but our farmers are not getting competent rates. Sometimes they are susceptible to failures of crops which result in losses, as also some crop-diseases, etc. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any proposal with the Government to form a cooperation to come to the rescue of the farmers like the Coffee Board so that some export-oriented crops can be grown and which would assist the farmers? Is there any such proposal?

MR. SPEAKER: This is about crop insurance scheme.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We would

always like to encourage exports and help the farmers. The Cotton Corporation of India is there for it.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Paddy, bajra, maize, groundnut and grams come under the CCIS in Gujarat. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Gujarat Government has sent any demand for including more crops such as cotton under the scheme?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The hon. Member must see that I have already replied that question. It is the same thing. It applies to cotton also.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you want that information and take time?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We have to take another look, how to make it workable. That is the problem.

[Translation]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the agriculturists are being provided loan for fertilisers and seeds through co-operatives. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the loan provided for the purchase of fertilisers and seeds is given from the premium of Crop Insurance Scheme. Can crop insurance be provided on a large scale. The Government may consider this point.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Premium is not so much. It is realised at the rate of Re 1/- per cent out of which fifty per cent is contributed by the farmer and 50% by us.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: If it is feasible, why not to implement it? In Bihar State, the loan is realised by deducting from the premium and people join the Crop Insurance Scheme.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: It is not feasible that is why the whole problem is there.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has referred about the losses. Is it not a fact that the losses are due to the misuse of the scheme in some northern States? Is it also not a fact that the present comprehensive insurance scheme covers only standing crops?

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that in Krishna District along seashore, nearly 15,000 acres of paddy harvested and stocked were literally washed away by the tidal waters during May 1990 cyclone. I want to know whether the Government will bring necessary changes in the comprehensive scheme so that the harvested crop is also covered and the interest of the farmer is protected....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This question has already been answered. The Minister gave a very comprehensive answer to this.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, that is different.

MR. SPEAKER: It covered that also. Okay, come out with a question.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, let the Minister say so.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, I have already replied to this. It is not feasible and it is not workable so far... (Interruptions)

[Translations]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: I would like to know from the hon. Agriculture Minister, it is a matter of pleasure that he is associated with agriculture....

MR. SPEAKER: Time is limited, if you want a reply please ask the question, a long introduction is not required.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: I am asking the question. Crop Insurance Scheme is not an ordinary task. How it will be invested, what will be the returns, are the points to be considered. Fortunately, the Agriculture Minister is himself an agriculturist. Will the government constitute a committee so that the Insurance Scheme is rightly applied to agriculturists which can give a right opinion after proper study which can be helpful in the long run?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I am inviting suggestions and I am very much concerned about finding any such source which may be helpful in this so that the scheme runs smoothly. No such resource or scheme has come our way till today. You may suggest.

SHRI RATILAL VARMA: In Gujarat, the balance is outstanding under Crop

Insurance Scheme, with the result they are losing faith on Crop Insurance Scheme. By what time the remaining balance would be paid?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The claims are mostly from Gujarat, some are disputed and are resolved. It is under process.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Sir, what I want to know from the hon. Minister is this. Particularly, the crop insurance scheme is only applicable when a farmer is taking loan from the bank. In case other farmers, who are in the same block, are not taking loan... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has already replied to this questions.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

People of Indian origin in Fiji

*509. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons of Indian origin in Fiji who have left that country so far;

(b) the number of them who have since settled in various countries, country-wise; and

(c) the number of persons of Indian origin who are still living in Fiji?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) The number of persons of Indian origin estimated to have left Fiji after the coups in 1987 is approx. 20,000.

(b) No precise figures are available. However, there are sizeable migrant communities of Fijians of Indian origin in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom and United States of America.

(c) According to information published by the Fiji Bureau of Statistics in December, 1989, approx. 3,37,557 persons of Indian origin were living in Fiji.

the events that are taking place. My only request to the hon. Members is to put the facts in a correct perspective so that our foreign policy becomes an instrument for creating conducive conditions throughout the world. Yes, Shri George Fernandes.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzafarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I urge this House to congratulate the brave people of Soviet Union for the commendable role they played during the hour of crisis when dictatorship was being thrust upon them.(Interruptions).....

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, I would also like to state that whatever we witnessed in the last 48 hours in Russia, it proves that in today's world, if somebody attempts at destroying the individual's freedom or the citizen's freedom, he would not succeed in his endeavour. I do not want to enter into any argument nor do I wish to initiate any discussion yet I regret to point out that our Government should have been aware that the changes brought about by Gorbachov were basic and radical and were liked by the people there very much. We had thought that like our country there was politics of courtiers (Darbari Politics) in Soviet Union also.....(Interruptions)..... What we have experienced and seen is that the democracy of Russia is not confined to Courtiers only. In Soviet Union there is democracy of the people in true sense and the people of Russia succeeded in foiling the sinister designs of those who attempted to bring dictatorship in the country.....(Interruptions)..... The Minister of External Affairs is present in the House. I was present on the day he made a statement in this House. I want to interrupt him at that time but the delicacy, to which you referred just now.....

MR. SPEAKER: I still maintain it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree that there is any delicacy in it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us wait.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: There is no delicacy when people are standing on the barricades.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no delicacy in it. Gorbachov was an elected leader and an attempt was made to overthrow an elected leader. It was the duty of the Government to support Gorbachov on behalf of people of the country who have always championed the cause of human rights.....(Interruptions)..... Had our Government tried a bit to understand the power of Boris Yeltsin, Russia and the Russian Republic, we would have saved ourselves from this embarrassing situation before the people of Russia.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all those people who supported the people of Soviet Union despite the changed attitude of our Government. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request you to congratulate Shri Gorbachov, Mr. Boris Yeltsin and the people of Russia on behalf of the country.....(Interruptions).....

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katra): Sir, it has been proved again that the people are the only determining force of the developments of history and nothing sustains against the will of the people. We wish well for the people of Soviet Union. It is very good that bloodshed has been averted and we, the people of Third World Countries, look forward to the Soviet Union to help the struggle in these countries as they did before. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't have any cross talking.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, we have always the best relationship with the USSR and our country definitely wants to continue it. There is no doubt about it. As far as that is concerned, Sir, we are afraid that American imperialism is getting strengthened, but then I do not want to pass any judgment. I only wish that in their wisdom the Soviet people will emerge victorious and the destiny of the Third World countries will be fully protected.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijaywada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, just a few days back the developments in

Soviet Russia have perturbed crores of people throughout the world.

Sir Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev is not only the President of the USSR, but he is a person who is loved among several countries, the peace-loving people, and he has almost become a symbol of peace and the recent historic Agreement with George Bush has raised several hopes among several countries regarding the future of the world.

Sir, we are very happy and we join along with you and all our colleagues in congratulating the people of Soviet Russia in bringing back Mr. Gorbachov as President, and ultimately they have proved that the people in Soviet Russia have really taken to Glasnost and Perestroika, which has been initiated by Comrade Gorbachov for the first time in the history of the Communist World.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what has taken place in the Soviet Union is momentous and epoch-making, and this whole process has started. But I share your view that the matter is still delicate. It is delicate in the sense that the development in the Soviet Union is still their internal affair. We have so far good relationship with the Soviet Union. And no doubt Soviet Union's contribution to Third World countries to keep their independent economy is innumerable. But, when the matter is unleashing itself at this stage, we also know that any attempt to take power by coup is condemnable. The American imperialism has intervened in the internal affairs of the Soviet Union.

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that it is a delicate matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It applies to both the sides.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, I am saying about the American imperialism and especially the role of Mr. George Bush. At the time when the Soviet people were to decide their fate, the intervention of any Government in any quarters in the internal affairs of a country is also condemnable. We should express that also. We, no doubt, think that the Soviet people would emerge ahead and their collective will will work. But, at the same time,

we must also take into consideration the negative developments that are taking place in the world. That is why the Government of India giving any opinion at this stage will be delicate and we will have to watch till the condition is stabilised.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a momentous development; there is no doubt about it. But the sovereign people of the Soviet Union have got the inalienable right and ultimate authority to choose their own way of life, to fashion their own economic policy and to formulate their own foreign relations. They are independent, they are sovereign and the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is the party of the people of the Soviet land. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union has got its own policy and programmes. On the basis of the support of the membership and the general people, they have taken up their policy and programmes. We have got no right to interfere in that. Every political party has got the right to formulate its own policy and programme of action. I feel the CPSU, at this particular momentous period, will take the right direction and bring about political stability in the Soviet Union. So far as Indo-Soviet relations are concerned, the people of India, for ages together have been nursing the friendship between the two great people. I think the Government of India would continue that policy which it has been pursuing for so long and the people of India will be happy to see that the Government of India do not depart from that policy.

Sir, I hope, I believe, I trust and I am convinced that the Soviet people who have got the revolutionary legacy would continue to struggle for the re-establishment of socialism in Soviet Union and for peace and democracy in the world.

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the concern expressed by all the parties on the development in Soviet Union is something very natural. I urge that instead of discussing this issue by rising above party lines, the leader of the House should express his views on

centres. Guntur gets a substantial share of this benefit. Most of the virginia tobacco is being exported and the whole of India is benefitted from this export.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that while during 1990-91 a quantity of 70,375 tonnes of tobacco was exported and this year the target is 74000 tonnes, an increase of 4 million kgs. Is the Minister aware of the fact that while the tobacco Board has fixed a target of production of 120 million kg for the year 1991-92, the Production Committee has enhanced it to 145 million kg whereby the interest of farmers is going to suffer and only traders are going to get benefit? Last year, they paid Rs. 33 per kg, an average price. The traders have brought a lot of pressure on the Tobacco Board as well as on the Production Committee to increase the quantity of tobacco to be produced which is detrimental to the interests of the farmers. Will the Government reconsider and take appropriate steps to see that this original target of 120 million kgs is adhered to? The original target itself is quite high when compared to the previous production. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will consider a proposal to set up a Tobacco Trading Corporation just on the lines of Tea Trading Corporation to purchase tobacco mainly to take care in times of distress of the interests of the tobacco growers and export tobacco abroad? I also want to know will the Government think of imposing 1 paisa per kg market cess and matching amount from the farmers and matching amount from the Government as a revolving fund for the operation of Tobacco Trading Corporation, which may be set up.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, the hon. Member has raised a very interesting question. Today, as far as FC virginia tobacco is concerned, after the grower applies to the Tobacco Board for growing tobacco on his farm, he gets the licence. A large number of farmers apply to the Tobacco Board for growing tobacco on their farms. I am sure the farmer would take care of his interests while applying. It is not, therefore, correct to say that somebody is forcing a farmer to grow tobacco. Farmer is coming forward to grow tobacco. On the other hand, the point the hon. Member has made that we should ensure that the unit value does not come down is well taken. But, kindly look at the unit value last year and this year. In 1988, 1989 and 1990 the unit value per kg was Rs. 16.33, Rs. 16.59 and Rs. 14.09. This year thanks to the auction system it has gone up to Rs. 33.00. Now, this high price is indeed very good for the tobacco grower. It is also good for the country which wants more export. But, one cannot say in terms of intense competition in the world that the price would always remain at Rs. 33.00. We have to balance the interests of the farmers who want to grow tobacco. We have to balance the interests of the whole growing community to see that the unit prices do not come down. We have to take into account the interests of the country which requires more foreign exchange. We will keep all this in mind before we finally decide on this aspect.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : What about Tobacco Trading Corporation?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am coming to that.

return of income every year if his income inclusive of income from house property exceeds the maximum amount not chargeable to income tax. There is no proposal to make it compulsory for the house-owners to file return of income irrespective of the total income of such persons.

(b) Does not arise:

(c) The Central Information Branches in the Investigation wing of the Income-tax Department collect information relating to house properties from various sources such as municipal corporations, construction companies and housing co-operative societies. The information is then verified and forwarded to Assessing Officers for taking appropriate action in the cases where tax evasion is suspected.

[English]

Evasion of Excise Duty by Cigarette Manufacturers

4135. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cigarette manufacturers have resorted to excise duty evasion;

(b) if so, the estimated amount of excise duty due from each cigarette manufacturer as on June 30, 1991;

(c) the steps taken to recover the excise duty due from each such defaulter; and

(d) the amount of excise duty collected from the above cigarette manufacturers during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) Yes Sir, during the last three financial years, cases of evasion of Central Excise duty involving an amount estimated at Rs. 248.67 crores against 14 cigarette manufacturing units were made.

(b) Confirmed Central Excise demands amounting to Rs. 126.98 crores were pending realisation against 15 cigarette manufacturing units as on June 30, 1991.

(c) Most of the outstanding dues are linked with cases pending in Customs Excise & Gold (Control) appellate Tribunal and various Courts. In many cases, the Tribunal and the Courts have been moved for early disposal of the cases. For defending the cases involving high revenue stakes, competent special counsels have been engaged.

(d) A sum of Rs. 636.51 crores was collected as Central Excise Revenue during 1990-91 from the 15 cigarette manufacturing units referred to in part (b) above.

Loans sanctioned by Nationalised Banks to Industrial Houses in Tamil Nadu

4136. SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans sanctioned to big industrial houses in Tamil Nadu by the nationalised banks during the last three years;

(b) whether the sanctioned amount has been released to all the industrial houses; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

keep officers and employees abreast with national and international developments on broad spectrum of issues like economic, political, social, cultural, administrative, etc. the question of discontinuance of newspapers on holidays would not arise.

[English]

Khusro Committee Recommendations for providing Loans to Agricultural Sector

4243. SHRI Z. SOBHANAD-REESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Khusro Committee has recommended that agricultural sector should be provided with at least Rs. 50,000 crores loan facilities every year;

(b) if so, the average amount made available as loans to the farmers in the country by various financial institutions/banks, etc.; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to implement the recommendations of the Khusro Committee in respect of providing funds to agricultural sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Khusro Committee did not recommend that any specific amount should be provided for agricultural sector each year.

(b) As per available information, the average amounts of direct agricultural loans per borrower disbursed by the commercial banks (1988-89) was Rs. 6548, by the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies the same was Rs. 1732 and for Regional Rural Banks (1989-90), the same was Rs.

3499.

(c) Khusro Committee reviewed the working of the rural credit system in the country and made recommendations inter-alia for revitalisation and strengthening of cooperative credit system. Action has been initiated on the recommendations for preparation of Business Development Planning Programmes for Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) all over the country, imparting training for preparation of Business Development Plans and for simplification of lending policies and procedures. State Governments have also been requested to initiate on recommendations relevant to them.

Development of Buckingham Canal as National Waterway

4244. SHRI Z. SOBHANAD-REESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Buckingham Canal connecting Vijayawada city and Madras city has been recognised as a National Waterway to be developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India;

(b) if so, the amount allocated for this work during the last three years;

(c) the amount spent thereon so far and the progress of the work; and

(d) the date by which the development work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct circular railway in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Schemes for Ajanta/Ellora Caves

4320. SHRI TEJSINGHRAO BHONSLE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether UNESCO recognized Ajanta and Ellora caves under the World Heritage Sites; and

(b) if so, the schemes formulated to develop the infra-structural facilities at these sites to attract more foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. has got project feasibility report prepared on Tourism development plan in respect of Ajanta Ellora region which also covers infrastructural development like road, water supply and sewerage, Air port and Rail links besides transport and guide service etc. to attract more foreign tourists.

Inclusion of Agnikula Kshatraya Community in ST List

4321. SHRI SOBHANADRE-ESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have recommended the inclusion of Agnikula Kshatraya (Palli) in the list of Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in this regard; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Union Government to bring forward legislation to facilitate inclusion of Agnikula Kshatraya (Palli) community of Andhra Pradesh in the list of Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c) Any amendment in the existing lists of Scheduled Tribes can be made only through an Act of Parliament as laid down in Article 342(2) of the Constitution.

Refrigerated water trolleys in Delhi

4322. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the refrigerated water sold through trolleys in Delhi is not bacteria free;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to substitute the present refrigerated water trolleys with bacteria free pure cold water in bottles at an affordable price for the people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) New Delhi Municipal Committee has reported that refrigerated water provided for sale through water trolleys is well within prescribed WHO limits of safe water supply. The Municipal Corporation has reported that refrigerated water trolleys belonging to licenced water cooling plants cell municipal water free from bacteria after mechanically cooling it.

(b) Question does not arise in view of reply to part (a) of the question.