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LOK SABHA

Monday, April 30, 1962/Vaisakha 10, 1884 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

MEMBERS SWORN

Shri P. K. Deo (Kalahandi). Shri D. D. Puri (Kaihal).

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Co-operative Movement in Eastern Region

*269. Shri Shree Narayan Das: Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any, and if so, what steps have been taken by the Union and various State Governments of the Eastern Region to strengthen the co-operative movement there which has been found to be much weaker as compared to other regions; and
- (b) whether indications are available as to the progress made in this direction?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The problems confronting the States in the eastern region were studied by teams of officers sent out by the Government of India and the Reserve Bank. Their findings were discussed at meetings 298 (Ai) LSD—1.

of officials and later at a conference of the Ministers incharge of Cooperation in these States in November, 1961. It has been agreed:

- (i) that official control of cooperative institutions should be removed thereby enabling non-officials to assume positions of responsibility;
- (ii) priority should be given to consolidation rather than expansion and the structural weaknesses of the institutions will be remedied through appropriate measures;
- (iii) the deficiency of the staff will be made good; and
- (iv) along with these measures, more liberal financial assistance for longer periods will be made available to the institutions to enable them to function satisfactorily.

Except in the case of Bihar, the State Governments have drawn up detailed programmes for revitalisation of weak societies and for liquidation of societies which are beyond rectification. The Bihar programme is still to be finalised. Schemes for providing more liberal financial assistance are under preparation in all these states.

In view of the magnitude of the problem it will take some time for any appreciable progress to be felt.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: From the statement it is not clear whether any special assistance is to be given by the Centre to this Region and if so, what is the nature of the assistance to be given.

Shri B. S. Murthy: The statement is as clear as day light. Only financial assistance, perhaps, the hon.

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Member is trying to know. As far as that is concerned, a crore of rupees has been set apart for the Third Five Year Plan, strictly speaking for the next four years and Rs. 10 lakhs for this current year.

Shri Shree Narayan Das: There was a special team that was deputed to enquire into the inherent defects in the working of the co-operative movement in this region. What were the important recommendations, if there are any which have not been accepted by the conference?

Shri B. S. Murthy: All those recommendations have been gone into and those recommendations, as have been stated, are: (i) that official control of co-operative institutions should be removed thereby enabling non-officials to assume positions of responsibility. In some of the States, Ministers and officials are Chairmen of Banks, etc. This we did not want. (ii) Priority should be given to consolidation rather than expansion. The tendency in these States is to go on expanding the co-operative movement instead of consolidating and trying to make them very effective. Deficiency of staff; especially supervisory, Audit and Inspecting staff has not been consolidated. Therefore, we have laid emphasis on these recommendations. As far as the fourth recommendation is concerned, I have already said that a crore of rupees has been set apart over and above the Central ceiling.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In working out the Plan, may I know whether the Ministry have studied the Dhebar Commission report, particularly in regard to the role of co-operation in the tribal areas?

Shri B. S. Murthy: The tribal people have not been kept out of the purview of the co-operative movement.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In the statement it is stated that official control of co-operative institutions should be removed thereby enabling non-officials to assume positions of responsibility. I want to know whether non-officials

have been associated with this; whether the leaders of the kisan sabhas have been associated with this.

shri B. S. Murthy: We do not make any differentiation between Kisan sabhas and Mazdoor sabhas. Any person, any organisation interested in the co-operative movement can come and participate. After all, it is a voluntary organisation.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know what has been done regarding the inclusion of co-operation in the education system, especially in the higher secondary and college stage?

Mr. Speaker: That is a general question not connected with this.

Shri Basumatari: May I know whether it is a fact that the co-operative system is more popular in the tribal areas than in others in Assam?

Shri B. S. Murthy: In the tribal areas, both the co-operative and the collective systems are in vogue.

Electricity for Kandla Port

*270. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether any scheme is being considered by Central or State Government to give more electric power to Kandla port?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Hafiz Mohammed Ibrahim): Yes, Sir. Two units of 5 MW each have been sanctioned for supply of power to Kandla Port during the Third Plan period.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह: कांडला पोर्ट के प्रयोग के वास्ते यहां पर जो फ्री ट्रेड जोन का एरिया कायम किया है मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि उस को जो बिजली दी जायेगी वह बम्बई के रेट से कम होगी या ज्यादा होगी?

Hafiz Mohammad Ibrahim: It is difficult for me to say offhand the particular price which would prevail in two different localities; unless I examine both, I cannot say definitely