

bigger scale than now so that the prices go down?

Shri B. S. Murthy: The hon Member is correct in saying that the retail prices charged by outsiders is anywhere about 25 per cent more than the prices of things got from the stores. Therefore, it is for the Ministry of International Trade to give as much encouragement as possible to the cooperative stores.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Will he liberalise the conditions of import of those articles, so that the prices may go down very much? At this time the prices are prohibitive; we cannot take any almonds.

Shri B. S. Murthy: This Ministry is not in charge of liberalising import and export.

Shri R. S. Pandey: Apart from the cooperative stores in Delhi, may I know whether there is any cooperative society in India which has been given licence for importing dry fruits?

Shri B. S. Murthy: I do not think any cooperative society is beyond the cooperative purview.

श्री तुलशीदास जाधव : कोऑपरेटिव स्टोर द्वारा जो व्यापार किया जाता है वह इंडिविजुअल व्यापार से भिन्न होता है। अगर कोऑपरेटिव सोसाइटी में ज्यादा नफा कमाया जाता है तो क्या सरकार उस पर कोई बंधन लगाती है ?

Shri B. S. Murthy: I have said there is no more profit. The profit derived by the retailers as well as the wholesalers is far less than the profits earned by individuals.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot conduct the proceedings when such talks are going on on all sides. Everyone is busy on every side; I do not know what the matter is.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: It is polling day.

An Hon. Member: The election is outside, not inside.

Mr. Speaker: The election is outside and not inside, as the hon Member says. (Interruptions). I shall stop the proceedings, if something more important has to be done here. Next question.

Crop Insurance Scheme

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*1217 { **Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:**
Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 278 on the 25th February, 1964 and state:

(a) whether the proposal to introduce Crop Insurance Scheme in certain parts of the country has since been considered by Government; and

(b) if so, the main features of the scheme?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh**): (a) and (b). The proposal to introduce crop insurance in certain parts of the country is still under consideration.

Shri Dhuleshwar Meena: The question of crop insurance scheme has been hanging fire since the last two or three years. May I know what difficulties are arising for the Government even to consider this scheme?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It is true that this has been there for a long time. The scheme is being examined in all its aspects and a final decision will be taken shortly. The question of obtaining the Cabinet's approval for enacting the necessary legislation will be taken up after the proposal has been finalised.

Shri Dhuleshwar Meena: In view of the fact that due to financial difficulties all the States except Punjab have refused to introduce this scheme, may I know whether the Central Government is thinking of giving some financial assistance to the States so that they can introduce this scheme in the States; if so, up to what amount?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Now the situation has considerably changed and more and more States are showing greater appreciation of this scheme. The Central Government would provide technical guidance and meet 50 per cent of the cost of administration of the crop insurance scheme for the period of the Third Five Year Plan wherever it is introduced.

Shri Ramachandra Ulaka: As the scheme is a Central subject, may I know whether the entire expenditure will be met by the Centre or shared between the respective States and the Centre; if so, in what way?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: As I said, the Centre will assist only up to 50 per cent plus the technical guidance. It concerns the Centre. Wherever it is proposed to be introduced, the experts have advised that it should be made compulsory, and as this comes under Entry 47 of List No. 1, a Central legislation is needed and that is being examined.

Shri Himmatsinhji: How do Government propose to ensure that the selective application of the scheme shall not be politically oriented?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We have written to all the State Governments not in the sense of favouring any State or any particular region. We are anxious that it should be introduced in two or three States because they are examining it carefully. I do not think that there is any political risk involved or any favouritism can be shown anywhere.

Shri Paramasivan: What are the crops to be covered under this scheme?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In Punjab it is going to be made applicable first to wheat and gram and amongst cash crops to cotton and sugarcane.

Shri Jashvant Mehta: As the hon. Minister stated that we are going to introduce it shortly, will he give us an idea as to at what stage the

scheme is and what is the outline of the scheme?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The Punjab Government has accepted it. That is the first stage. They have suggested that it should be introduced in six districts and six blocks, that means one block in each district in the first year, then it should be increased in the next year in three other blocks and in the third year in another three blocks. After that they will examine how best it is working and on that basis they might think of extending it to other areas.

Shri Ranga: Will this be separate from the other scheme they have had for insurance against natural calamities? May I also know why it is that even though the Cabinet has not yet examined it, in the President's Address it was stated that legislation in regard to this matter was going to be introduced? Are we to understand that that particular Bill is also before the Cabinet and, if so, may I know when it is going to be introduced? We were assured that it was likely to be introduced in this session.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: As I said, it is under examination. We are shortly going to submit the proposal. A paper will be prepared for the approval of the Cabinet and after the Cabinet's approval, the Bill will be introduced.

Shri Ranga: What about the other part of the question regarding natural calamities?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Wherever crop insurance will come into operation, it is a protection against natural calamities. But as this is going to be a totally new scheme, you can say to that extent it might differ from the other insurance.

Shrimati Akkamma Devi: May I know whether the scheme will cover those crops which are damaged by late blight diseases for a number of years?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: As yet we have not received the proposal from

the Government of Madras. But in Nilgiris areas, that disease is in an epidemic form and whenever that is introduced in the Nilgiri areas, we will surely cover those crops.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : अभी मंत्री जी ने बतलाया कि पंजाब में गेहूँ और चने की फसलों का इश्योरेंस होगा। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार और बंगाल में कौन कौन सी चीजों की फसलों का इश्योरेंस करने का विचार किया गया है।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : अभी बिहार सरकार से इस के सम्बन्ध में कोई योजना नहीं आई है। जब योजना आयेगी तो बिहार सरकार खुद बतलायेगी कि वहाँ की स्थिति में किन किन फसलों का इश्योरेंस करना जरूरी है। अगर माननीय सदस्य चाहें तो बिहार सरकार से कोई योजना भिजना दें।

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know what sort of technical help will be provided to the various States and whether any proposal has come from any private insurance company for such type of insurance and if the answer is in the affirmative, what help the Government has promised to them?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We have not received any offer from any private insurance company. This must be a Government insurance work. The L.I.C. is there in the field and it should examine it. It will require elaborate study and implementation because this is going to be the most difficult task. It is not so easy as the general insurance and other things.

श्री यु० सि० चौधरी : जैसा कि सरकार के बयानों से पता लगता है पंजाब में फसलों का बीमा करने की योजना पर विचार हो रहा है। पंजाब सरकार ने भी विधान सभा में इस सम्बन्ध में बयान दिया है और कहा है कि इस को लागू करने के रास्ते में कुछ अड़चनें हैं। मैं जानना चाहता

हूँ कि यह अड़चनें केन्द्र की तरफ से हैं या और किन्हीं कारणों से हैं।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : अड़चनें इस रूप में नहीं हैं। जैसा मैंने बतलाया विधान की धाराओं के मुताबिक अगर इश्योरेंस के लिए दबाव डालना है तो केन्द्रीय सरकार की ओर से इस के सम्बन्ध में कानून बनना चाहिये। इस बात की जांच की जा रही है कि इस के सम्बन्ध में किस ढंग का विधेयक हम तैयार करें। उस की सारी रूपरेखा पर विचार किया जा रहा है। विशेषज्ञ लोग इस की जांच कर रहे हैं। वे जैसा फैसला करेंगे उस के अनुसार केबिनेट के लिये कागज तैयार किया जायेगा।

श्री शिव नारायण : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इश्योरेंस स्कीम को सरकार एल० आई० सी० के कर्मचारियों द्वारा चलायेगी या प्राइवेट एजेन्सी के द्वारा, या वह अपनी एजेन्सी इस के लिए कायम करेगी।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : असल में अभी यह देखना होगा कि प्राइवेट इश्योरेंस कंपनीज अगले दिनों में कहां तक मुफीद साबित होंगी...

श्री शिव नारायण : क्या आप इसके लिये प्राइवेट एजेन्ट्स रखेंगे।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : इस के बारे में विस्तृत ब्योरा बतलाया जायेगा जब बिल पेश होगा।

Shri Krishnapal Singh: I would like to know if the Government propose to start the crop insurance by insuring orchards and fruit crop which is a valuable crop. I think they should make a start with orchards and fruit crop.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That is a suggestion which might be examined.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: In view of the fact that nearly 20 per cent of the total food production is affected by

pests and also by the vagaries of monsoons, could not the Government think it desirable to take a bold step of introducing the scheme irrespective of the reluctances on the part of the State Governments? This is a national problem.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: There is no question of any resistance from any State Government.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: Reluctance.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I discussed this matter with several State Government representatives and Chief Ministers including the ex-Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He was quite keen about introducing it. Since some risk is involved and an elaborate study is needed, therefore, there is some delay. But I might assure the hon. Member that we would not delay it for a longer time.

Shri Balakrishnan: Supposing the scheme is introduced in the whole of India, what would be the financial implications, and how much amount will each State have to spend, whether it would be beneficial to the ryots or it would be beneficial to the Insurance Corporation or to other such agencies?

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members should not start with suppositions and then seek answers to hypothetical questions during the Question Hour.

श्री म० ला० द्विवेदी : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या यह स्कीम केवल पंजाब के ६ ब्लॉक्स में ही शुरू की जाएगी या प्रोग के रूप में देश के अन्य भागों में भी शुरू की जायेगी ? यदि हाँ, तो कौन कौन से भागों में ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : देश के सभी राज्यों को इस के सम्बन्ध में सूचना दी गई थी । जिस राज्य की ओर से इस सम्बन्ध में योजना बन कर आयी है वहाँ पहले शुरू होगा, और राज्यों को भी इस के सम्बन्ध में राजी करने का यत्न किया जायेगा ।

Best Village

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*1218. { Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:

Will the Minister of **Community Development and Cooperation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any nationwide competition for adjudging India's best village during 1963-64;

(b) if so, the name and location of the best village so adjudged; and

(c) the special features of the said village which led to this result and what prize has been given?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The selection will be made when results from all State Governments have been received.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Ramachandra Ulaka: May I know whether there are any criteria for adjudging the best village of India at the national level, and what prize is proposed to be given to the best village during 1963-64?

Shri B. S. Murthy: The test will be the performance of the village in regard to agriculture in all its aspects, animal husbandry, irrigation, co-operation, promotion of panchayati raj and many other allied things.

Shri Thirumala Rao: Family planning too?

Shri B. S. Murthy: If there are people interested in that, that will also be taken up.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Formerly, the best village at the national level used to get Rs. 5,000 as prize, and at the State level Rs. 1,000 and at the district level Rs. 250. Due to the emergency, the cash prizes have been stopped, and a certificate of merit is being given at present.