

Shri C. Subramaniam: The gosamvardhan association has to take the decision with regard to whom they would help. The policy had been laid down by the Government and according to that policy the association will decide as to who should be helped.

श्री अचल सिंह : गोसंवर्द्धन परिषद् को गवर्नमेंट कितनी ग्रांट देती है ?

Shri D. R. Chavan: The statement has been laid on the Table.

Shri Kapur Singh: Have the Government enquired into the entire system of delivering of Government funds to private bodies for public purpose and is it not the best way to facilitate corruption and if so what steps do they propose to remedy this state of affairs?

Mr. Speaker: We are confining ourselves only to gosamvardhan and not to all the private bodies.

Shri Kapur Singh: This supplementary naturally arises out of this question, Sir.

श्री ओंकार लाल बेरवा : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि गोसंवर्द्धन के लिये कितना पैसा इस साल दिया गया था और क्या वह सारा पैसा खत्म हो गया है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: No. The statement shows the amount that has been spent by the Council. The balance has been returned to the Government.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how this gosamvardhan council or the Central and the State Agricultural Ministries are going to tackle the problem of stray cattle and useless cattle and whether any scheme has been prepared for that and it is being implemented?

Mr. Speaker: The question is about the fund; that is about the stray cattle.

Shri A. N. Vidyalkar: Does the Government make any assessment

from time to time regarding the work that this council or its branches do and if so when was the last assessment made?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Every year they submit a report and we go through that report and try to find out the work done by this association. I should say that they are doing very good work.

Flue-Cured Virginia Tobacco

*616. **Shri Kolla Venkaiah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantities of exportable flue-cured Virginia tobacco of different grades of 1963-64 crop remaining with the traders and growers for want of export market;

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect and explore the market for that tobacco; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. E. Chavan): (a) According to the available information, there are no stocks of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco of 1963-64 crop with growers but the traders are reported to have a stock of 115 lakh Kgs. of this tobacco.

(b) Government of India sponsored three delegations, one to the Western European countries including U.K., the other to U.S.S.R and Eastern European countries and the third to African countries to explore the possibilities of disposal of accumulated stocks of tobacco. The tobacco Export Promotion Council also sponsored a trade delegation to Japan for the same purpose.

(c) As a result of the above efforts, orders for about 2,000 tonnes of Flue-Cured Virginia tobacco have been received from U.S.S.R. Japan has also purchased a considerable quantity of high grade varieties of this tobacco during the current year. Efforts are being made to persuade them to pur-

chase more quantities. Representatives of some of the other importing countries have promised to come to India to inspect stocks and make purchases of this tobacco to the extent required by them.

Shri Kolla Venkaiah: In view of the fact that we are facing this problem and huge quantities of high grade tobacco are accumulated with the traders now and in view of the new crop that is also coming into the market, will the Government try to purchase this huge quantity through the State Trading Corporation and help the traders to export the tobacco?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): I do not think the State Trading Corporation is a stocking agency like this. We can only permit exports and to that extent they can come into the picture. If there is no demand outside the country, we have to regulate the production to the extent we are able to sell outside.

Shri Kolla Venkaiah: Every year the peasant has to sell his produce and this problem arises and the prices are going down. The Government have fixed minimum price for exportable grades. Will the Government of India, Agriculture Ministry, fix the price for the growers grades and purchase the crop through the State Trading Corporation?

Shri C. Subramaniam: No, Sir. There is no such proposal. I would like these lands to be diverted for food production now.

Shri Nambiar: May I know whether, in view of the fact that there is so much stock, the State Trading Corporation's assistance has been sought by this Department to see that proper market is found out elsewhere?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Yes. We are making all attempts to find markets outside. But those markets are limited and the use of tobacco also is

coming down. As the hon. Member is aware, there are reports that smoking tobacco causes cancer and, therefore, this is bringing down the use of tobacco. You cannot go on dumping tobacco on other countries.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : सरकार को इसमें क्या लाभ है कि हिन्दुस्तान की बेस्ट लैंड इस तम्बाकू की काश्त में लगी हुई है और गेहूँ के लिए थर्ड क्लास जमीन दी जाती है। उधर तम्बाकू का स्टॉक लगा हुआ है और इधर गेहूँ का दाना भी नहीं मिलता है। सरकार इस जमीन को गेहूँ की काश्त में क्यों नहीं लगाती बजाय तम्बाकू की काश्त करने के।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह भी यही चाहते हैं, उन्होंने कहा कि वह आपसे इतिफाक करते हैं।

Shri Jaipal Singh: May I know why Government have done nothing so far to promote *hooka* tobacco instead of cigarettes and *bidis* so far as tobacco is concerned? Why have they not developed and encouraged not only in the Ministry itself but throughout the country the use of *hooka* tobacco?

Mr. Speaker: *Hooka* cannot be exported.

Shri Ranga: Apart from the understandable ignorance of the Minister as well as some of our friends that most of the land which are under tobacco cannot be put to the production of food at all.....

Shri C. Subramaniam: I disagree with the hon. Member.

Shri Ranga: They have not been placed under food for the past 80 or 90 years—chillies and some other crops used to be produced there. May I know whether the Government, the Agriculture Ministry, are doing their best or would do their best to persuade the State Governments concerned, Gujarat, Andhra and Mysore, to give protection to peasants by taking their tobacco stocks into the warehouses,

giving the bills therefor and persuading the banks to advance credits on their guarantee?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am sorry to differ with the hon. Member. These lands can be used for raising foodgrains. I have no doubt about it. Simply because this has been getting more income for the peasants, they have been growing tobacco here. No doubt, the hon. Member comes from that area and is interested in the peasants getting more income out of it. But certainly the Government cannot undertake an operation to purchase tobacco and then stock it and then sell it later on. We are interested in the production of foodgrains, purchase of foodgrains and the distribution of foodgrains.

Shri Ranga: He has not answered my question.

Mr. Speaker: What should they do after stocking. This is for export. He says that market is falling down.

Shri Ranga: What is the use of having a Minister who is ignorant about the whole position and gives wrong facts to the House? It was the Commerce Minister.....

Mr. Speaker: Am I to appoint him?

Shri Ranga: I am not blaming you, Sir. Is it not a fact that the Commerce Minister himself said that he had negotiated for orders and that orders were coming? He wanted this Warehousing Corporation Act to be made applicable to tobacco also so that the tobacco growers can be helped to store their tobacco in the warehouses, take the bills and thereupon obtain the credit from the banks.

Shri C. Subramaniam: We recently amended the Act and included tobacco also. But that is not the question here. Whether we should encourage the production of tobacco which has no market or we should divert the land for the growing of something more useful is a thing to be considered and in spite of the knowledge of the hon. Member, I am prepared to

say that even in Guntur it is possible to raise foodgrains.

Shri Ranga: You will have to born again in some other Ministry.

Shri P. R. Uatel: When the Flue-Cured Virginia tobacco and other types of tobacco have accumulated in the country, I want to know why the Government is importing tobacco from outside and, if so, what has been imported in the last two years?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am sorry. I do not deal with the imports.

Mr. Speaker: From exports, the hon. Member has gone to imports.

श्री कपूर सिंह : यदि यह वस्तु मनुष्य के स्वास्थ्य के लिए हानिकारक है तो उसका पूर्ण बहिष्कार क्यों नहीं किया जाता है और उसके व्यापार को प्रोत्साहन क्यों दिया जाता है ?

Shri C. Subramaniam: I am sure my hon. friend's leader would say that he is also ignorant.

Shrimati Lakshmikanthamma rose—

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Ladies ought not to take interest in tobacco.

Shrimati Lakshmikanthamma: I may have something to say against tobacco.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Surendra Pal Singh. Shri Surendra Pal Singh. Now, Shri Yashpal Singh.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: I put Q. No. 617.

Mr. Speaker: I had called the hon. Member twice but he did not stand.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: I did stand, Sir, but you did not see me.

Mr. Speaker: He was attending to the lady and not to this.

Shri D. C. Sharma: You yourself have said that we should pay more attention to ladies. So, what is the harm in that?

An hon. Member: Why should old men be interested?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Election Expenses

*617. { **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:**
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have decided to abolish the present statutory limit on election expenses; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Jaganatha Rao): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: In view of Parkinson's very correct observation that a "person's expenditure rises to catch up with his income", may I know how far the contributions of the business-houses to the election funds of various political parties in the country are responsible for pushing up the election expenses?

Shri Jaganatha Rao: The Election Commission has no information about this.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: If such a recommendation is made in the future, would not the acceptance of the recommendation be taken as.....

Shri Jaganatha Rao: I could not hear the question.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: If such a recommendation is made in the future by the Election Commission, would not that step be taken to mean.....

Shri Jaganatha Rao: It is hypothetical.

Mr. Speaker: The answer has come already that it is hypothetical.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know whether Government have got infor-

mation that in these elections, the expenditure limit is always exceeded by four or five times the prescribed limit, and if so, how Government propose to take a realistic view of the picture and do the needful?

Shri Jaganatha Rao: Government are aware that the maximum limit of election expenses is not being observed. That is why the Election Commission in the month of September last requested the representatives of various political parties in Parliament to attend a meeting, and invited their suggestions. The leaders who attended the meeting wanted time, and they said that they would give their suggestions in November; some of them have given their suggestions while some have not. I understand that the Election Commission is going to meet representatives of various political parties some time in January or February and evolve a code.

Shri Jaipal Singh: There is just one ordinary point that I would like to raise with you. Sometimes, in reply to questions, the hon. Ministers say '(a) No', and '(b). Does not arise'. I suggest that you should take a decision that it should be a two-way traffic. The reply should be that Government have decided not to abolish it, and so, the reasons therefor might also be given, indicating why they have decided not to abolish it.

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri C. Subramaniam): It is an existing thing.

Shri Gauri Shankar Kakkar: Since it is almost an admitted fact that invariably the expenses are going up beyond the limit, may I know whether there has been or there is going to be any scrutiny of the election returns submitted so far, either by the Election Commission or by any other authority in regard to the breach of the maximum limit, and if such a scrutiny has been made, whether any prosecution has been launched with regard to wrong submission of election returns?