

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस समय जो भिक्षु भिक्षा मांगते हैं, उनमें कितनों का रजिस्ट्रेशन हुआ है और कितनों का रजिस्ट्रेशन नहीं हुआ है और किस प्रान्त में ज्यादा भिक्षु पाए जाते हैं।

Shri A. K. Sen: The preparation of statistics may be a good academic exercise but from the point of view of practical steps being taken, they are hardly of any use. Secondly, the statistics are the things which could rarely be applied to such classes of persons.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : किस प्रान्त में ज्यादा भिक्षु हैं ?

प्रध्वल महोदय : जब उनके पास स्टैटिस्टिक्स ही नहीं हैं, तो वह कैसे बता सकते हैं कि किस प्रान्त में ज्यादा हैं ?

Shri Kapur Singh: Are the Government aware that there is a fundamental religious obligation in Hinduism for certain categories of persons to subsist exclusively on beggary....

Some hon. Members: No, no.

Shri Kapur Singh:.....and, if so, whether the Government propose to eradicate this form of beggary also?

Shri A. K. Sen: I think it is an incorrect reading of philosophy and of our religious obligations. It is true that some types of beggars try to exploit the religious sentiments of the Hindus but that is hardly based on proper Hinduism.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know whether Government are aware of the fact that often children are kidnapped and then crippled and it is in this way that beggary is perpetuated in this country? In that context, may I also know what steps Government have taken to protect the children from being kidnapped by beggars?

Shri A. K. Sen: It is true that a very rigorous law was passed when the late Shri Govind Ballabh Pant

was the Home Minister; the Parliament passed a legislation imposing very strict penalty on such kidnapers. Such crimes are investigated in the same way as is done with regard to the other crimes and the miscreants punished.

Shri P. R. Patel: In view of the fact that beggary is on the increase and that the beggars produce much more children, may I know whether it would be within the jurisdiction of the Central Government to order sterilisation of beggars?

Shri A. K. Sen: That is something which will not appeal to any civilised Government.

Credit to Agriculturists

*756. **Shri Hoda:** Will the Minister of Community Development and Co-operation be pleased to state:

- the percentage of agricultural credit met during the last year;
- whether any representations have been received by Government for making radical changes in the credit system; and
- if so, Government's reaction thereto?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Shinde): (a) The total quantum of credit raised only for agricultural purposes not being known it is not possible to say what percentage of the same has been covered by the cooperatives. According to the All-India Rural Debt and Investment Survey conducted by the Reserve Bank of India in 1961-62, the cooperatives met about 24 per cent of the total credit raised by agricultural households for all purposes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Shri Hoda: May I know whether Government have received representations from various farmers' associa-

tions suggesting a number of measures to be taken in this regard and, if so, whether these representations have been given any consideration and any decision taken thereon?

Shri Shinde: I have already stated in part (b) of my reply that no representations have been received by the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation.

Shri Heda: May I know whether Government are aware that one of the big lacunae in the system of giving credit to the farmers is that it reaches them after the need is over and therefore, any steps to be taken towards the decentralisation at the lower level, so that the decision is taken at the lower level and the farmers get the credit in time.

Shri Shinde: I think this problem has been looked into and action programme which has been chalked out is being implemented in various States.

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : जब सरकार को यह मालम है कि ग्राम कृषकों की आवश्यकताओं का बहुत छोटा प्रतिशत ही कोप्रोपेर्टिव बैंक के द्वारा या अन्य फाइनेंशल एजेंसीज के द्वारा पूरा किया जाता है तो फिर क्यों व्यापार या बड़े बड़े उद्योगों को फाइनेंस करने के लिए बड़ी बड़ी इंडस्ट्रियल फाइनेंस कारपोरेशन्स आदि संस्थायें स्थापित की जाती हैं और क्यों नहीं कृषि के क्षेत्र में भी कृषकों को आर्थिक सहायता देने के लिए ऐसी कारपोरेशन्स सरकार बना रही है ?

Shri Shinde: As far as some of the States, especially in the eastern part, are concerned, the hon. Member's contention might be correct to a certain extent. This problem was examined by an Informal Group of the Reserve Bank recently. This Group examined the institutional arrangements for providing agricultural credit keeping in view the level of advance in the different States. This Group has stated in categorical terms that there is no alternative to

accepting the co-operative as the only institutional agency for provision of agricultural credit in the long run. However, there are certain States like Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa Rajasthan where the co-operative credit structure cannot immediately undertake the entire responsibility. This Group has recommended that in each of the States a credit corporation at the State level should be formed for provision of agricultural credit. It has already been clearly emphasized by the Group that these corporations will function in areas where the co-operatives are not strong. As and when the co-operatives gather strength in such areas, the corporations will withdraw. The recommendations are being considered by the Government of India.

श्री सिंहासन सिंह : प्रभो प्रागरे में कृषि मन्त्री ने कहा था कि खाद्य उद्योग को बढ़ाने के लिए बड़े बड़े इंडस्ट्रियल कंसन्स के टाइप पर कृषक फार्म्स खोले जायेंगे कम्पनियों के द्वारा। अगर ऐसे फार्म्स खोले जा रहे हैं तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन कम्पनियों को सरकार क्या मदद देगी और क्या क्रेडिट पर रुपया भी दिलवाने का प्रबन्ध किया जाएगा ?

Shri Shinde: The hon. Member's question does not arise out of the main question.

श्री पुंड्रबौर सिंह : सदन में एक बार नहीं धनेकों बार यह प्रश्न धाया है। किसान जो ऋण नेता है, उसको धनेकों उलझनों का सामना करना पड़ता है। उसको जितना ऋण मिलता है उसका पच्चीस प्रतिशत जो है वह एक प्रकार से चक्करों के घन्दर ही खत्म हो जाता है। इसके उत्तर में ऊटपटांग जवाब दिया गया है और ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि यह जो समस्या है यह सरकार के सामने कोई समस्या ही नहीं है। ऋण देने का जो चक्कर और जो उलझा हुआ चक्कर है, उसको सुलझाने की दिशा में सरकार क्या कुछ नहीं करने जा रही है ?

Shri Shinde: I think that on the whole....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : चौधरी साहब ने कुछ शब्द बहुत सख्त कहे हैं। इस तरह के शब्द पार्लिमेंट में सप्लीमेंटरी करते वक़्त कहना उचित नहीं है।

श्रीयुद्धबीर सिंह : कौनसा ऐसा शब्द है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ऊटपटांग आपने कहा है।

Shri Firodia: May I know the precise rate of interest at which credit is given to the weaker sections, and also the definition of the term 'weaker section' according to the Central Government? May I also know the quantum of credit that is supplied to the weaker sections?

Shri Shinde: As far as the definition of the term 'weaker sections' is concerned, it is well known that the Scheduled Tribes, the Scheduled Castes and landless labourers and persons owning one-ninth of the maximum limit laid down under the ceiling legislation are categorised as coming under the definition of weaker sections. As is well known, at present, the quantum of credit that is being supplied to the weaker sections is very much limited, and Government are anxious to see that it is increased to a substantial extent.

Shri Malachami: May I know whether there is any proposal with Government to restrict co-operative credit to rural areas, in view of the fact that there are too many agencies to cater to the needs of urban credit?

Shri Shinde: There are not multiple agencies at present in rural areas which are giving credit.

Shri Buta Singh: What special credit facilities are being provided in the Fourth Plan for the rural areas?

Shri Shinde: In the Fourth Plan, we are trying to see that short-term, medium-term and long-term loans are 1423(Ai) LSD—2.

provided on a large scale. The Fourth Plan target has been fixed at Rs. 650 crores. The credit structure is being revitalised in order to cope up with the increased activities.

Shri Sivamurthi Swamy: May I know what steps Government are taking to reduce the interest rate? Whereas the Reserve Bank are giving at 2 per cent rate of interest, the agriculturists are getting it at nearly 9-1/2 per cent. May I know what steps Government are taking to reduce the rate of interest?

Shri Shinde: This question is being frequently referred to on the floor of this House. I may inform the hon. Member that recently the Reserve Bank itself has raised the rate of interest, and there is very little scope at present to reduce the interest. But it has been stated on behalf of the Government of India that our efforts are not to have a wide gap between the rate at which the Reserve Bank advances the loan and the rate at which it is made available to the agriculturist.

Rationing

{ Dr. Ranen Sen:
*757. { Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the food situation obtaining in those places where full rationing has been introduced; and

(b) if so, the result of the study?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. B. Chavan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rationing has benefited the people particularly those belonging to the lower income groups. They are getting regular supply of foodgrains on a fixed scale at fixed prices throughout the year.