

kerosene, rice and atta are not found? It is very difficult to get them.

Shri Govinda Menon: The rationing is confined to wheat and rice and they are found in the ration shops and the cardholders get them from their ration shops.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: Is Government aware of the fact that, even among the clerical staff, there are certain persons whose demands of actual requirements fall short of the ration supply and if so, will the Government consider categorising them as labourers for this purpose?

Shri Govinda Menon: The ration is given on a certain scale. There may be certain persons who may find the ration to be insufficient. But that is the scale fixed.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: My point is that there are people even in the clerical staff who require more ration than what they are supplied and these people should be categorised as labourers.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister says that it is given according to a specified scale whether he be a clerk or anybody.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: The labourers get more.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Recently the M.Ps have been given an additional ration card for their expected and unexpected guests. I want to know whether similar ration cards have been given to those who are expecting guests but who are not Members of Parliament, i.e., the citizens other than M.Ps in Delhi.

Shri C. Subramaniam: We expect the hon. members to use it only when they get guests. We cannot expect the same kind of behaviour from others also.

Vaikuntal Mehta Committee on Cooperation

*542. **Shri Linga Reddy:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vaikuntal Mehta Committee recommended the full finance scheme on co-operation to meet the entire financial needs of the agriculturists in the country;

(b) the extent to which the scheme of full finance to enable the agriculturists to purchase all the agricultural inputs has been implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) The Vaikuntal Mehta Committee recommended that credit from the cooperatives should be adequate to meet the production needs of cultivators taking into account the nature of the crops to be grown, the inputs to be used etc. and also the repaying capacity of the borrowers.

(b) and (c). The policy regarding loans for agricultural production has been generally liberalised. Loans are being increasingly made production-oriented through the adoption of the crop loan system. However, credit through cooperatives has been limited due to inadequate resources.

Shri Linga Reddy: May I know whether any survey is made with regard to the credit needs of the ryots on the basis of a credit finance card for each family?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: A rough estimate has been made. The Dantwala Committee was set up and the report has come. The officials have also made an assessment. The credit needs of the cultivators may be of the order of Rs. 1000 crores. The cooperatives are taking care only to the extent of Rs. 400 crores and by

the end of Fourth Plan, it may probably be Rs. 700 to Rs. 800 crores.

Shri Linga Reddy: May I know whether the present financing agencies are not in a position to meet the full needs of the ryots and if it is so, how Government propose to meet their full requirements?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: This is exactly the point. I have also stated in the main reply that the co-operatives are not able to meet the total credit requirement because of inadequate resources. This is under consideration by Government.

Shri P. Venkatasubbalah: May I know whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank has placed a ceiling of Rs. 36 crores for issue of debentures by the land mortgage banks and that has fallen short of the requirements of the agriculturists, and if so, whether Government propose to address the Reserve Bank to liberalise it and to remove the ceiling?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: It is a fact that the Reserve Bank and the LIC have put their ceilings on this fund, whereas the requirement is much more and is of the order of Rs. 50 crores. We are negotiating with these bodies.

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: Taking into consideration the working of the co-operative societies all over the country, may I know whether Government are by and large satisfied that this agency can ultimately deliver the goods to the farmers or whether they feel that some other agency is required?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: It is a fact that the co-operative structure as it exists today is much better than it was but it has many deficiencies, and it is under the constant review of the Government; to the extent that the credit needs are to be supplemented by some other organisation, that will have to be done, and Government are giving thought to this matter.

Shri D. J. Naik: The credit-worthiness is based on the land held by an agriculturist. The small farmers do not

get credit from the Central financing agencies, that is, co-operative agencies. May I know what steps Government intend to take to give adequate credit to the small farmers so that agricultural production can increase?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: The recommendations of the committee have been accepted by the Central Government and they have also been accepted by most of the State Governments; according to those recommendations, the credit needs of the farmers will be met irrespective of the ownership of the land, whether they are tenant-cultivators or they are land-owning cultivators....

Shri Ranga: Question. Is that being done?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: These needs are being met and credit is being given without land mortgages etc.

Shri D. J. Naik: May I know whether that recommendation has been accepted by the Reserve Bank?

Shrimati Vimla Deshmukh: What will be the maximum amount that will be made available to the agriculturists under this scheme?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: Each State has different ceiling; if I remember correctly, the amount per cultivator in States like Madras is about Rs. 2000, but each State has its own ceiling for individual cultivators.

Shrimati Akkamma Devi: May I know to what extent the Agricultural Refinance Corporation will help the small cultivators through the land mortgage banks?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: The Agricultural Refinance Corporation will not take care of the short-term needs of cultivators but of the medium-term and long-term needs. So far, it has been having a limited impact only; we expect that in the Fourth Plan it will give good help.

Shri Gauri Shankar Kakkar: The short-term loaning through co-operative societies is not helpful to cultivators and does not give any relief to the cultivators. Is the hon. Minister in a position to introduce only long-term and medium-term loaning for the cultivators and do away with short-term loaning?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: Short-term, medium-term and long-term finances are necessary; all the three types are necessary for agricultural production, and it is Government's considered view that short-term loaning is also necessary and it is having a good impact.

Shri S. Kandappan: While taking steps to liberalise the credit available to the farmers, may I know whether Government will take care to see that the interest charged on the loan is not increased?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: The present rate of interest ranges between $7\frac{1}{2}$ and 9 per cent; it was considered high, but in the light of the tight position or the tight situation in the money market today a view has to be taken whether it is high; I think it is not very high now.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: Is the hon. Minister aware that some of the co-operative credit societies are charging very high rates of interest, sometimes 8, 9 and 10 per cent? If the answer is in the affirmative, what steps are the Ministry going to take to see that this high rate of interest is reduced so as to give genuine relief to the farmers?

Shri Shyam Dhar Misra: The cultivator has a problem of obtaining adequate credit; it is not so much the rate of interest which is the problem. As stated in answer to a previous supplementary, the rate of interest ranges from $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent to 9 per cent which Government consider, seeing the present money market rate, not high.

12.00 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

Holding Elections to Rajya Sabha from Kerala

SNQ. 9. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the question of holding elections to the Rajya Sabha from Kerala arising from biennial retirement of Members from the State; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Law (Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The seats in Rajya Sabha allotted to Kerala may remain unfilled till the elections of the new Legislative Assembly of the State and no constitutional amendment may be undertaken as it will be of no avail in connection with the ensuing biennial election.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In view of the fact that this situation can arise any time, at present or in the future, why have Government not taken a decision to fill in the vacancies so as not to deny the right of the State where such an exigency occurs?

Shri C. R. Pattabhi Raman: By the Proclamation, there is dissolution of the Legislature there. According to art. 30(1), which deals with the composition of the Council of States, the Council of States shall consist of (a) 12 members to be nominated by the President in accordance with the provisions of clause (3); and (b) not more than two hundred thirty-eight representatives of the States and of the Union Territories. Then clause (2) of the same article is important.

"The allocation of seats in the Council of States to be filled by representatives of the States"—
I emphasise that with your leave—
"and of the Union territories shall be in accordance with the