

were exhibited in the U.S. Pavilion at the National Agricultural Fair in Calcutta last year and, if so, whether Government have explored the possibility of introducing baby tractors in this country?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes, we have.

Shri Nath Pai: That "Yes" is rather mysterious.

Mr. Speaker: They say they have been impressed.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes, we are very much impressed.

Dr. B. N. Singh: Do Government think that the tractor scheme will ever succeed in India where the farms are small holdings where tractors cannot be economically used?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: There is a programme for manufacturing small tractors. Then, there is another aspect. By and by, there will be bigger holdings when farmers will get combined into co-operatives.

Shri M. K. Kumaran: May I know whether the recommendation made by the Conference on Improved Agricultural Implements that the Extension Blocks should have their own workshops is being implemented?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That programme is being implemented. The hon. Member might be interested to know that very good workshops are going to be established in each intensive agricultural district.

Panchayati Raj in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan

1249. Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Will the Minister of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan which were in the vanguard in the matter of Panchayati Raj have given second thoughts to the matter in the light of their experience.

(b) if so, the conclusions arrived at by these States; and

(c) the programme, if any, drawn up by those States, to advance and to strengthen Panchayati Raj institutions in these States?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) No.

(b) and (c). Does not arise. It may, however, be added that Panchayati Raj is a new and dynamic programme and both at the Centre and in the States there is a continuous study and thinking on the problems that are thrown up with a view to overcome difficulties and make Panchayati Raj effective and efficient.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: To what extent were Panchayati Raj institutions involved in party politics in the last General Elections and what lessons have been derived from that or have Government shut their eyes to that?

Shri B. S. Murthy: General Elections have just taken place it requires a thorough study. If the hon. Member has got any information, he can pass it on to us.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Much better than I have the hon. Minister of Community Development himself has personal experience and information on this.

Shri Tyagi: That was not a happy experience.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I say...

Mr. Speaker: That is a comparison of opinions and who has the better opinion.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: May I know if the hon. Minister is aware that very recently a Senior District Officers' Conference in which all the Collectors and District Magistrates were included was held in which there was criticism of Panchayati Raj

institutions in the context of elections. What were the ailments pointed out by them and what was the cure suggested?

Shri B. S. Murthy: As a matter of fact, periodical evaluation is being done as far as the Panchayati Raj institutions and their working are concerned. The hon. House is aware that some time back a study team of the Congress Party in Parliament had visited Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan. Later on, a study team of the Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development also visited certain places. Still later on, the Praja Socialist Party sent a team under the Chairmanship of Shri Mukut Behari Lal and it also has made a study. Still further, the Planning Commission.....

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has made a reference to a particular conference of certain officers and has asked what comments they have made.

Shri B. S. Murthy: They have submitted.....

An Hon. Member: Who?

Shri B. S. Murthy:...their evaluation reports and they are being processed. The question asked was whether Andhra and Rajasthan Governments have had second thoughts and I said 'No'.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: I referred to a Senior Officers' Conference. This answer has got no reference to that. Does the hon. Minister not know about that?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister has given the results of the study teams that have gone there but not of that particular conference of officers that is being referred to by the hon. Member.

Shri B. S. Murthy: That has not come to our notice.

Shri Heda: May I know whether Government have considered the various resolutions passed at a conference of the Chairmen of Zila Parishads in

Andhra Pradesh? Also, though formal resolutions were not passed, the problem was discussed at the conference of Collectors.

Shri B. S. Murthy: These resolutions are now being processed by the Andhra State Government. It is also trying to find out where there should be any necessity for amending certain of the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Act. They are trying to get legislation at a later stage to deal with the implementation of comprehensive training programme for officials and non-officials. Further, they would like to study certain of the defects that they find as per the resolutions passed. They are now studying them.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is it not a fact that Panchayati Raj has intensified local groupism to the point of bitterness? May I know what the study teams have said about this problem and how they want to eradicate it?

Shri B. S. Murthy: It is not a fact that groupism has been made bitter at the Panchayat level. As a matter of fact, Panchayati Raj institutions are trying as far as possible to be out of party bickerings and party bitterness.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Is the Government aware that one of the major defects that have arisen from the experience of Panchayati Raj in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan is that there are no adequate safeguards where backward sections, like the Tribals or Scheduled Castes or.....

Mr. Speaker: She is making a long statement. She should ask a question direct.

Shri Renuka Ray: Where backward sections of the community are concerned, no adequate safeguards are practically applied in Panchayati Raj and their exploitation is getting worse instead of getting better.

Shri B. S. Murthy: As far as backward classes, like, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, including

women, there is a..... (Interruption).

Shri D. C. Sharma: Sir, I take strong exception to the hon. Minister calling women backward classes. He should not say so even in a joke.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. He has only given categories of specially privileged persons!

श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद : क्या राष्ट्रीय एकता परिषद् की बैठक पंचायतों के चुनाव के सम्बन्ध में कुछ आदर्श या मान्यताएं निर्धारित की गई हैं यदि हां तो वे क्या हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो एक अलहदा सवाल हो गया ।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ने कोई निश्चय किया है कि ग्राम पंचायतों के चुनाव में पोलिटिकल पार्टीज अपने उम्मीदवार नहीं खड़े करेंगी ?

Shri B. S. Murthy: This question has already been asked and I said that it is not possible for the Government to pass rules regarding the non-participation of political parties in the elections to the village panchayats.

Mr. Speaker: We are going away from the scope of the question.

Shri Jashvant Mehta: May I know whether Government has considered the problem of party politics and has given any directive to bring about direct elections instead of indirect elections so far as the elections to these gram panchayats are concerned?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

Complaints from Foreign Tourists

*1251. **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently there have been complaints from some foreign tourists regarding the bad quality of food in this country, and about the

dishonestly and inefficiency of the guides; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to remove the causes of such complaints?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). No specific complaints have been received recently about the dishonesty and inefficiency of the approved Guides. As regards the quality of food in this country, a few complaints have been received recently and these have been taken up with the establishments concerned for taking remedial steps.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: Does the Tourist Department of the Government of India make any systematic efforts to elicit the opinions and views of tourists as to whether they have enjoyed their stay in this country or not?

Shri Raj Bahadur: That is done occasionally, because we also encourage parties of tourist journalists and other specialised experts on this subject and we try to ascertain what they feel about the various facilities. We do not claim that we have reached a very satisfactory stage, but we are trying to improve, and we are improving.

डा० गोविन्द दास : श्रीमंती जी ने कहा कि कुछ शिकायतें खाने के सम्बन्ध में आई हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह शिकायतें किन क्षेत्रों से आई हैं और जिन क्षेत्रों से यह शिकायतें आई हैं उनके वास्ते क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

श्री राज बहादुर : किन क्षेत्रों से ग्रंथ अगर शिकायत करने वालों के क्षेत्रों से है तो कुछ शिकायतें तो आस्ट्रेलियन ट्रेवल एजेंट्स के जरिये आई हैं और इसी प्रकार से कुछ शिकायतें होटलों के बारे में विभिन्न टूरिस्ट्स आदि से आई हैं। इम्पीरियल होटल आगरा और ई बंसी होटल बंगलोर के बारे में शिकायत आई है। प्रांड होटर दिल्ली और जनपथ होटल के बारे में भी शिकायत आई है। रायल होटल के