

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I know whether the State Bank which was asked to open branches in the rural areas would be asked to give credit facilities to the cultivators?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: This particular question of giving facilities to the cultivators cannot be very adequately tackled by opening of branches or commercial banks, because, firstly, the amounts required by the cultivators, is very small, being of the order of Rs. 100 or Rs 200. That can better be looked after by the co-operative societies. All that work is taken up by the Reserve Bank in consultation and in co-operation with the various State Governments. For example, the Government of West Bengal has started a few co-operative societies, and the same facilities can be provided in other States as well.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know whether any amount has been advanced to the Government of Orissa to provide facilities to the jute growers in Orissa?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: We have no information. The Government of West Bengal has set apart a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs in their budget for giving advances to the co-operative societies. We have no information whether such budget provision has been made by either the Government of Orissa or the Government of Bihar or even the Government of Assam.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know the actual amount of credit that has been distributed to these jute growers in West Bengal through the co-operative movement or co-operative societies?

Shri B. R. Bhagat: It is very difficult to compile those figures, but as I said, in the budget, a provision of Rs. 25 lakhs exists. I am not in a position to say how much has been spent out of that.

Shri Rameshwar Tanti: In spite of the fact that Bihar is the chief jute growing area, the credit facilities are not quite the same as they were in

the previous year, not only in the case of the small traders but even in the case of the big vyaparis.

Shri B. R. Bhagat: The hon. Member is giving information.

Silicones

*1393. **Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee, has done any work on silicones for protection of masonry;

(b) if so, with what results;

(c) the constituents required for manufacture of this material;

(d) whether any other protective treatment for mud-houses are under experiment in the Institute; and

(e) if so, with what results?

The Deputy Minister of Education and Scientific Research (Shri M. M. Das): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Results have shown that application of silicones on kutchu mud walls can afford protection against monsoon within a reasonable cost.

(c) The composition of silicones varies according to their use. Main constituents are: Chlorine and sand.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Experiments are still in progress.

National and State Highways in Tripura

*1394. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the names of National and State Highways in Tripura; and

(b) the basis on which they have been declared as such?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a). At present there are no National or State Highways in Tripura.