

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 exporters.

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.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Dasaratha Deb: May I know the reasons why Government could not declare the Agartala-Assam road as a national highway?

Shri Datar: Government are considering the whole question, because under the Territorial Councils Act, certain roads have to be transferred to them for maintenance immediately. Government would consider this question also as to whether certain roads should be treated as State highways. There are certain difficulties. The West Bengal Act applies now, but the proposal is to apply the Bombay Highways Act. Then, the matter will be facilitated.

Shri Dasaratha Deb: Does the Minister say that certain roads are under the direct administration of the Territorial Council? But is it not a fact that only the foot-tracks are under the Territorial Council?

Shri Datar: That question itself is under consideration. Out of a large-mileage of 682 miles, there is a proposal to transfer at least 451 miles to them.

Shri Bangshi Thakur: May I know whether all the roads, by-roads, lanes and by-lanes of Agartala town and other divisional towns of Tripura are treated as national or State highways?

Shri Datar: That question has not yet been considered.

Coloured Earth

*1395. **Shri E. Narayanasamy:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that coloured earth suitable for distemping is found along the road sides of Kodaikanal, Kodaikanal Hills, Madurai District; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to utilize it?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The utilisation of Lithomargic clays, which can be used for manufacture of inferior grade colour washes in shades of buff and brick-red, is the concern of the State Government.

Shri N. E. Munisamy: May I know whether it is a fact that the entire Thatchambadi firka of Wandiwash taluk in North Arcot is full of this coloured earth suitable for distemping and various other things? If so, are any steps being taken by Government to utilise it.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: I could not say.

Mr Speaker: Why not the hon. Minister say loudly that it is not possible for him to say without notice?

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the State Government has asked for technical advice and help in this matter?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: No, the State Government has not asked for any advice or help in this matter.

बबीना के निकट बम विस्फोट

*१३९७ श्री मोहन स्वचर . क्या प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बबीना सैनिक केन्द्र के निकट नाहादा धीर भाई दो गांवों के पास बम-विस्फोट की दो घटनायें हुई थीं; धीर

(ख) यदि हा, तो क्या उन घटनाओं के कारणों का पता लगाया गया है ?

प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री के सहा-सचिव (श्री कर्णेश्वरदास नायकबाड़) . (क) २४ अक्टूबर धीर १८ नवम्बर को क्रमशः दो विस्फोट घटनाएँ हुई, दोनों विस्फोट भाई गांव के समीप हुए ।

(ख) दोनों घटनाओं में विस्फोटों की खानवीन के लिये कोर्टस भाफ इन्सायरी मुकर्रर की गई थी । बचपि पूरा विस्तार