

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** May I know the number of research stations in the country as a whole doing potato research?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** The information is already given.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister has stated in regard to U.P. and Bihar. He wants for the whole of India.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have not got the information.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** May I know if there is any station in Madras engaged in potato research under the Government of India?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member knows there is none. What is the meaning of asking the question? There is no point in bringing it to the notice of the hon. Minister when the hon. Member himself knows it.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** I shall put it in another form.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I can't allow it.

#### LOANS TO AGRICULTURISTS

\*380. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) how the sanctioned amount of Rupees Two crores, to be advanced to the State Governments for advancing short term loans to the agriculturists during the year 1952-53, has been distributed amongst the various States;

(b) the terms on which this advance was made to the States; and

(c) whether any of these State Governments have paid back the amounts?

**The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh):** (a) Out of the sum of Rs. 2 crores, Rs. 185.07 lakhs have been distributed to the following States as follows:—

	Rs.
Madhya Pradesh	66.81 lakhs
Madras	100 lakhs
Orissa	63,000
Ajmer	13.73 lakhs
Bilaspur	7,000
Delhi	2.73 lakhs
Himachal Pradesh	80,000
Manipur	16,000

(b) In the case of Part 'A' and 'B' States, these short-term loans have

been advanced on the condition that they will be repaid by the 31st of March 1953 with interest at 3 per cent. per annum. In the case of Part 'C' States also, the advances are repayable by 31st of March, 1953 but no interest is charged because, under the Constitution, Part 'C' States are not entitled to take loans and the amounts are therefore given to them as non-interest bearing advances repayable to the Central Government before the close of the financial year.

(c) As stated in the reply to part (b) above, the loans are repayable only by the 31st of March 1953. The Government of India have no information whether any repayments have been made so far.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether, at the time of sanctioning the loans, the Central Government asked the various State Governments the rate of interest they would charge the agriculturists?

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have no information here.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know, Sir, whether any part of this money was advanced to Part "B" States, and if so, the names of Part "B" States to which such advances were made.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** I have given a complete list.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Hon. Members must have noted them down.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** In answer to part (b) of the question, the hon. Minister stated the conditions under which money was given to Part B States, but I could not hear the name of any Part B State, to which money was advanced.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** That is just the statement of a general policy that we pursued. There may or may not be a Part B State.

**Shri P. T. Chacko:** May I know why no part of the money was advanced to any Part B State?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Possibly, they did not ask. The question here relates to the policy underlying this. We cannot go into the details. If the hon. Member is interested in Travancore-Cochin, he may put a separate question.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether efforts have been made to ascertain whether the various State Governments to whom the loans were granted have utilised the money fully or not?

**The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai):** They will have to pay the interest.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** There is a lot of procedure gone through before money is actually paid, and unless we are sure that it will be utilised, it will not be paid. Moreover, it should be understood by hon. Members that this is not the only item for which loans are granted. There are other items as well. There is therefore no reason to believe that the States whose names I have not mentioned do not get anything.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member asked whether the money has been utilised or not. The hon. Minister, if he knows that it has been utilised, may say that it has been. If he does not know, he may say 'I do not know', without presumption of other questions and inferences.

**Shri Velayudhan:** May I know whether this Rs. 2 crores loan given for agricultural purposes, is in addition to the Reserve Bank loan, for which about 25 per cent. interest was taken from the agriculturists?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is co-operative society.

**Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** This is independent and stands by itself. It has nothing to do with that.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Do the Government propose to insist that the rate of interest which is charged from the cultivators will not be more than one per cent. beyond what the Government are charging from the States?

**Shri Kidwai:** I think the hon. Member knows that this is a question for the State Governments to decide; a deputation of the persons who receive the loans can raise this question with them, and arrange for it.

**Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Yesterday we were told that on the loan of money which was given through the local Government to the Co-operative Banks, they charged something like 9 to 12 per cent. from the cultivators, and perhaps more. I would like to ask the Government whether they propose to insist that not more than one per cent. more interest is charged from the cultivators. Otherwise, there is no use of giving any money to the States.

**Shri Kidwai:** This is a temporary short-term loan given for specific purposes. For instance, for Madras, this loan was given for distributing fertilisers, and they charged very nominal interest that would meet the expenses and the repayment of the loan.

Several Hon. Members rose—

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is assumed that there are absolutely no other Assemblies in any part of India, that this is the only Assembly of Assemblies, and that every question ought to be put here. Hon. Members must know that there are other Governments responsible. Why not put them these questions and attack them?

**Shri Kidwai:** They should be attacked.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** If necessary.

#### EMPLOYEES PROVIDENT FUNDS SCHEME (REGIONAL COMMITTEES)

\*381. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state:

(a) whether and if so, how many Regional Committees have been constituted so far under para 4 of the Employees Provident Funds Scheme;

(b) whether and if so, how many State Boards as envisaged in the Scheme have been constituted so far; and

(c) the number of employees of different categories who have so far participated in the Scheme?

**The Deputy Minister of Labour (Shri Abid Ali):** (a) No Regional Committees have been set up yet. It is, however, proposed to set up Regional Committees shortly for the States of Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madras and Madhya Bharat.

(b) No State Board has been constituted. This question will be taken up as soon as the Central Government have established the scheme on a firm footing, after about a year.

(c) The total number of employees covered by the Act is about 13,77,000. Complete break-down information is being collected.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know the number of industrial establishments that have come under the operation of this scheme?

**Shri Abid Ali:** I require notice, Sir.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether the time-limit fixed for the receipt of applications under para. 27 of the Scheme has been extended, and if so, by what time?

**Shri Abid Ali:** By three months, it has been extended.

**Shri Venkataraman:** May I know how many applications for exemptions