

FINANCING AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

*582. **Shri Lakshmayya:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had made any provision for financing agricultural operations and marketing of crops of co-operative societies in the Madras State in 1952-53 and 1953-54; and

(b) if so, whether these facilities continue to be given to the Andhra State after its formation?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri A. C. Guha): (a) Yes, Sir. A credit limit of Rs. 479.30 and Rs. 281.50 lakhs to be availed of through the Madras State Co-operative Bank for financing agricultural operations and marketing of crops, under section 17(4)(a) and 17(4)(c) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, was sanctioned during 1952-53 and 1953-54 (upto 12th February 1954) respectively. The figure of Rs. 281.50 lakhs is exclusive of the amount of Rs. 246.00 lakhs sanctioned in respect of the Andhra State Co-operative Bank during the year 1953-54.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Shri Lakshmayya: May I know the rate of interest charged on that?

Shri A. C. Guha: 1½ per cent. is charged by the Reserve Bank.

Shri Lakshmayya: May I know whether there is any proposal to set up a Financial Corporation for agricultural operations, on the model of Industrial Finance Corporation?

Shri A. C. Guha: There have been so many proposals. I cannot say that Government have come to any decision about this thing, but I can only say that the Reserve Bank of India is carrying out an all-India enquiry into the question of agricultural credit, and till the results of the enquiry are out Government cannot come to any decision on this question.

Shri Lakshmayya: May I know whether the Central Government propose to set up such a Corporation for agricultural operations?

Shri A. C. Guha: I have already stated that unless the results of the Reserve Bank enquiry in the matter are published we cannot come to any decision in the matter.

INVESTIGATION OF COMPANIES' AFFAIRS

*583. **Shri Morarka:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state the number of companies whose affairs have been investigated by Government Inspectors under Section 138 of the Indian Companies' Act since 1936?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): Necessary information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Shri Morarka: Are we to understand that information since 1936 is not available with the Central Government at all?

Shri M. C. Shah: Information is being collected.

Shri Morarka: May I know the minimum qualifications necessary for such Inspectors?

Shri M. C. Shah: There are Registrars. Up till now the Company Law administration was delegated to the States, and those Registrars continue to administer the Company Law within the respective States. We have to obtain all this information from the Registrars. Now the Central Government has taken over the administration and the delegated powers have been withdrawn. There is no question of qualifications of Inspectors.

KUMBH MELA TRAGEDY

*584. **Shri L. Jogeshwar Singh:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of killed and injured at the Kumbh on the morning of the 3rd February, 1954?

The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): Attention is invited to the statements made by the Prime Minister on the floor of the House on the 15th February 1954. This is a matter under investigation by the Committee appointed by the Uttar

Pradesh Government and the Committee's report must be awaited.

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh: May I know how many persons were reported to be missing and how many of them have been restored to their relations?

Shri Datar: Sir, that itself is a matter under investigation.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: rose—

Mr. Speaker: I am going to the next question.

Shri V. G. Deshpande: I want to ask a question on a matter which is not under investigation.

Mr. Speaker: The matter is under enquiry.

INCOME-TAX

*585. **Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply to starred question No. 1223 for the 11th September, 1953 and state whether any agreement has since been entered into with the Government of Burma for avoidance of double taxation?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri M. C. Shah): The matter is still under consideration.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being experienced by the Indian merchants in Burma, and what steps are being taken to minimise their difficulties of double taxation?

Shri M. C. Shah: Government are aware of their difficulties, and therefore we have continued the Order of 1936 wherein certain reliefs are granted. They have kept the matters pending till the agreements are entered into. The draft has already been prepared; it will be scrutinised and sent to the Burma Government. After we receive the consent of the Burma Government these agreements will be entered into.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is it a fact that the books in India are being summon-

ed to Rangoon and their books in Rangoon are being summoned to the respective places in order to assess their income-tax?

Shri M. C. Shah: We are not aware of that. I will enquire into that matter.

SANGEET NATAK AKADAMI

*586. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Theatre Building and Planning Committee of the Sangeet Natak Akadami has decided to establish a fully equipped modern theatre in Delhi;

(b) whether Government have agreed to sanction a grant equal to the amount collected from the public towards financing the project; and

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to finance such projects in other places as well?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education (Dr. M. M. Das):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Akadami has not approached the Government with any proposal.

(c) The question does not arise at present.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether Government is aware of any peculiar aspects of this Akadami which would distinguish it from ordinary theatres?

Dr. M. M. Das: Sir, it will be a national theatre.

श्री भूपत दर्शन : इस संस्था का नाम जो संगीत नाटक अकादमी रखा गया है उस में संगीत और नाटक की तरह क्या अकादमी के लिये कोई संस्कृत का शब्द नहीं निकल सकता था ?

Dr. M. M. Das: Sir, I think *Parishad* is the Sanskrit or Hindi equivalent of academy.