

Cooperation from the date of its creation upto 1963-64; and

(b) the loans and subsidies granted by it in each year for co-operative activities?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation (Shri B. S. Murthy): (a) The total expenditure incurred on Administration is as under:—

(a)			(Rupees)		
1958-59 (From 30-12-1958)	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64
71,182	4,78,923	8,13,949	8,80,333	9,16,721	8,80,011

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(Rupees in lakhs)
(Rounded to the nearest lakh)

	1958-59	1859-60	1960-61
Loan:	212	407	260
Subsidy:	111	182	240
	1961-62	1962-63	1863-64
Loan:	363	484	818
Subsidy:	212	285	380

Assistance to Weaker Sections of the Community

586. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Minister of Social Security be pleased to state:

(a) the specific measures taken by Government to help the so-called weaker sections of the community;

(b) what are the weaker sections composed of and what is their approximate number in the country;

(c) the total expenditure incurred in helping them during the current Plan period; and

(d) the amount spent on various committees appointed to enquire in-

to the conditions of such weaker sections and what tangible benefits have accrued to them as a result thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Department of Social Security (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) The Department of Social Security are primarily concerned *inter alia* with the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and to a limited extent with the welfare of 'other Backward Classes' defined by the economic and for the time being—other criteria. The wider programme for the weaker sections, however comprises:—

- (i) special schemes included in the successive Five Year Plans for the welfare of Backward Classes (Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Denotified Tribes etc.);
- (ii) the programme of Community Development; and
- (iii) the special Welfare Programme which includes the Welfare Extension Projects undertaken by the Central and State Welfare Boards, the programmes relating Social Defence, Social and Moral Hygiene, After-Care Services and other Welfare measures.

Welfare Services are directed, in particular, towards sections of the community which need special care and protection.

The programmes of Community Development is intended primarily for the development of the rural society and development of the weaker sections is one of its specific objectives. Accordingly, the programme has been suitably oriented to confer special benefits on the weaker sections. The following specific steps have been taken:—

- (i) The Government contribution to the bad debt reserve of Co-operative Central Banks.

has been raised from 1 per cent to 2 per cent in the case of loans given to the Co-operative Farming Societies.

- (ii) Preference is being given to Co-operative Farming Societies in granting leases of land reclaimed by Government, cultivable waste lands, etc.
- (iii) A provision of Rs. 1 crore has been earmarked for the Third Plan period for productive programmes in the Gramdan villages.
- (iv) Emphasis is being laid on accelerating the growth of labour co-operatives during the Third Plan period.
- (v) The programme of supply of mid-day meals to school children has been expanded to cover about 10 million children by the end of the Third Plan.

The Panchayati Raj bodies have also been instructed to earmark a suitable percentage of their budget provision every year for schemes of special benefit to the weaker section to set up special committees at the district block and village levels to look after the welfare of the programmes for the weaker sections at various levels.—The annual conferences on Community Development review the progress.

(b) The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes form a good proportion of the weaker sections of the community as in addition to a low level of development, they also suffer from specific disabilities.

The 'weaker sections' as such have not been specifically defined by Government. However, according to the report of the Study Group set up in 1960 by the Ministry of Community Development under the Chairmanship of Shri Jayaprakash Narayan, about 50 per cent of the rural households have an annual income of less

than Rs. 500 per annum, and about 80 per cent less than Rs. 1,000/- per annum. According to the Study Group, families having an annual income of less than Rs. 1,000/- per annum would cover cases of chronic economic backwardness.

(c) The following outlays have been provided in the Third Plan for the different programmes enumerated under part (a) above:—

(Rs. in crores)	
1. Welfare of Backward classes	114
2. Community Development	294
3. Social Welfare.	28
Total:—	436

(d) A Study Group was set up in 1960 by the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation with Shri Jayaprakash Narayan as the Chairman to enquire into the conditions of the weaker sections. A sum of Rs. 6,555 was spent on T.A. & D.A. in respect of the non-official members of the Study Group.

The Study Group have useful recommendations and these are being kept in view by the Department while formulating programmes for the betterment of the Backward Classes (Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Denotified Tribes).

Strike at Visakhapatnam Port

587. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a strike by over 3,000 workers of Visakhapatnam Port recently;

(b) if so, the causes of the strike; and

(c) the action taken by Government in the matter?