

**Action on Report of Committee for
Administrative Arrangements
for Rural Development**

2408. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD
SETHI :
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recommendations made by the G.V.K. Rao Committee on existing arrangements for rural development were placed before the National Development Council;

(b) if so, when and the decision of the Council; and

(c) what further action is being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH
RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Restrictions in Growing Opium

2409. SHRI B. B. RAMAIAH : Will the
Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any restrictions at present in growing opium in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POJARY) : (a) and (b).
In accordance with the law, the cultivation of opium poppy in India is permitted in such tracts, as may be notified by the Central Government; from time to time and such cultivation has to be only on account of Central Government. The cultivation of opium poppy is under strict licensing control as envisaged in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Rules, 1985.

The licences are issued each year as per the Licensing Principles laid down by the Government, taking into consideration the export demand for opium for medical use and prevention of leakage from licit to

illicit channel, through requirement of minimum qualifying yield.

**Effect of Volcanic Eruption in America
on Indian Stratosphere**

2410. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD
SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be
pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian scientists have found that the volcanic eruption in America in 1985 which claimed 22500 lives had wide ranging effect on the Indian stratosphere; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNO-
LOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOP-
MENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRO-
NICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R.
NARAYANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Observations by Indian scientists indicated reduction in electrical conductivity in the stratosphere between 20-35 km. above ground within a few weeks of the volcanic eruption in South America on 13 November 1985. Later observations indicate gradual return to normalcy. All major volcanic eruptions are generally followed by this type of changes in the conductivity of the stratosphere but this does not pose any problems. Hence there is no need for Government to take any steps in this regard.

**Import Duty on Outboard Engines for
Fishing Trawlers**

2411. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will
the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to
state :

(a) whether Government propose to exempt the outboard engines and the spare parts of fishing trawlers from the levy of import duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?