

- i) Disseminating technical information to cardamom growers for adopting techniques for moisture conservation through mulching and similar cultural programmes to minimise drought effect on crop and plants. This was achieved through organising seminars, discussions, display of hoardings, slides etc. in important cardamom growing areas.
- ii) A contingent scheme, providing financial assistance to cardamom growers for procuring irrigation equipments and developing infrastructure for water sources, by constructing farm ponds, wells and small check dams for ensuring availability of water for irrigation to minimise drought damage to crop has been implemented. The scale of subsidies provided are 33 1/3% of the cost of irrigation equipments subject to maximum of Rs. 5000 for pumpsets and Rs. 30,000 for sprinkler units and 50% of the cost of construction subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 per farm ponds/wells and Rs. 50,000 per check dams.

[Translation]

**Central Government Employees
Contribution to Drought Relief Fund**

153. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of days' salary that has been paid as bonus to those Central Government employees who are not eligible for productivity linked bonus.

(b) whether Government and unrecognised employees union had issued joint appeal to the Central Government employees to contribute amount equivalent to two days bonus either towards the drought relief fund or the employees' provident fund ; and

(c) if so, the total percentage of Central Government employees who complied with this appeal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) Central Government employees not covered by any productivity linked bonus scheme have been granted *ad hoc* bonus equivalent to 25 days emoluments in respect of the accounting year 1986-87.

(b) and (c) The Finance Minister had appealed to the Government employees to deposit the amount of bonus in the provident fund on voluntary basis. The President of the Confederation of Central Government employees endorsed the appeal of the Finance Minister.

No statistics of the number of employees who complied with the appeal have been maintained.

[English]

Implementation of Scheme for Development of SC/ST by RRBs

154. SHRIMATI MEERA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the performance of the regional rural banks in implementation of schemes under special component plans and 20-point programmes for development of SC/ST is upto the expectations ;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) the measures under consideration of Government to improve their performance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (c) The Regional Rural Banks have been showing steady progress in the implementation of Government Special Programmes including 20-Point Programme. From January, 1986 to December, 1986 these Banks are reported to have issued loans of Rs. 306.71 crores in 1632974 borrowal accounts under I. R. D. P., DRI and other special programmes. On the 20-Point Economic Programme it is reported that 147 RRBs

as at the end of June, 1986 have disbursed Rs. 95.58 crores to 937918 SC/ST beneficiaries.

Separate figures of loans given to SC/ST persons under IRDP, DRI and other special programmes are not available. However these programmes are meant for target groups and as per norms should cover a majority of ST/SC borrowers. Since the target groups to which RRBs give loans have preponderance of SC/ST population, therefore, a sizeable amount of loans outside Government sponsored programmes also benefit it SC/ST population.

Reports Regarding Recruitment to Defence Services

155. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government have received reports regarding corrupt practices in recruiting youth to the defence services;

(b) whether Government have taken note of the specific case of corruption/attempt to receive bribe reported in respect of the recruitment to the services that was held in early September 1987 at Cannanore in Kerala ; and

(c) the action Government have taken against the officials responsible for such corrupt practices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND DEFENCE SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No specific case has been reported. Certain complaints have, however, come to notice through press reports which are being enquired into.

(c) All complaints are investigated departmentally or through CBI and administrative/ disciplinary action taken against those who are found guilty.

Development Assistance from Japan

156. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Japan is giving Rs. 620 crore loan as development assistance to India ;

(b) how is this amount being utilised ;

(c) the amount allotted for Srisailem Hydro-electric power station in Andhra Pradesh ;

(d) when was the amount released to Andhra Pradesh ;

(e) whether any amount has been earmarked for development of Telecommunication in Andhra Pradesh ;

(f) if so, the amount earmarked in this regard ; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) to (d) for the year 1987-88 Japan has pledged bilateral loan assistance to the tune of 68.477 billion yen (Rs. 625.87 crores) The amount is being utilised for implementation of the following projects ;-

i) Srisailem Left Bank Hydro Power Station Project (I).

ii) Purulia Pumpel Storage Project (Engineering Services)

(iii) Anpara 'B' Thermal Power Station Construction Project (II).

(iv) Assam Gas Power Station and Transmission Line Construction Project (II)

(v) Tamil Nadu Small-Scale Enterprises Development Project.