

(ख) और (ग) . अन्नक व्यापार निगम द्वारा शुद्ध अन्नक और अन्नक उत्पादों के निर्यात को बढ़ाने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। ये निगम विदेशी सहयोग से विम्व-लिखित उत्पादों के लिए कारखाने लगाने की भी सोच रहा है :—

- (1) गारा और बारीक अन्नक पाउडर ;
- (2) अन्नक पत्रक और माइकेनाइट ;
- (3) अन्नक हात्रिक (कैसीटर) आदि ।

अन्नक के नए उपयोगों का पता लगाने के लिए अनुसंधान और विकास सुविधाएं बढ़ाने का भी प्रस्ताव है ।

ये सभी उपाय छोटे-छोटे टुकड़ों और कतरनों के रूप में अन्नक की विपणन क्षमता और बिक्री बढ़ाने के लिए किए जाएंगे क्योंकि अन्नक की मांग में कमी का सामान्यतः इन अन्नक किस्मों पर ही सबसे बुरा प्रभाव पड़ा है ।

भारत सरकार के वाणिज्य मंत्रालय ने 1976 में अन्नक सलाहकार समिति का गठन किया है जो निम्नलिखित बातों पर सलाह देगी :—

- (1) अन्नक के उत्पादन और निर्यात में सुधार ;
- (2) शुद्ध अन्नक और अन्नक उत्पादों का विकास ;
- (3) अन्नक आधारित उद्योगों को प्रोत्साहन और अन्नक उत्पादों का निर्यात ।

Anand Marg and Universal Proutist Revolutionary Party

4102. SHRI CHATURBHUIJ: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps being taken to counteract the misleading international propaganda being done by the Anand Marg and the Universal Proutist Revolutionary Party?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S. KUNDU): In view of the acts of terrorism and violence indulged in by followers of the Universal Proutist Revolutionary Federation in several parts of the world in recent months, steps have been taken through diplomatic channels to explain to the foreign governments the facts connected with the prosecution and conviction of Shri P. R. Sarkar. Government have reason to believe that foreign governments have now a better appreciation of the nature and activities of this organisation. It is also apparent that the various acts of terrorism and violence directed against Indian missions and personnel have been motivated with the aim of securing the release of Shri Sarkar who is undergoing life imprisonment having been convicted by a law court of murder. Government have made their position absolutely clear that they will not give in to such pressure tactics. Shri Sarkar has been given full opportunity to appeal against his conviction. In fact his appeal is pending in the High Court and its decision is awaited.

Effect of Cooking Gas on Heart

4103. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cooking gas affects heart;
- (b) if so, whether any survey has been made in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) No Special studies have been conducted to determine the harmful effect of cooking gas on heart, but the experience of specialists shows no relationship of heart disease to the use of cooking gas over the conventional stove.

- (b) and (c) : Does not arise.

Condition of workers of Plantation Industry

4104. SHRI B. K. NAIR: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that several crores of rupees are being

collected by the Central as well as the State Governments from the plantation industry and its products like tea, coffee, rubber, cardamom etc.;

(b) whether the working population in this industry numbering over 50 lakhs is living in sub-human conditions;

(c) whether Government do not extend to them any of the beneficial measures like housing, education medical aid etc. on the plea that they are the concern, of the planters as stipulated in the Plantations Labour Act, 1951;

(d) whether this considerable segment of our population has been reduced to utter misery and destitution; and

(e) if so, whether Government would evolve suitable measures to have the benefit of the social uplift measures mentioned above extended to them also on par with the rest of the population?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) to (e). While precise figures are not readily available, it is a fact that the plan- tation industry makes a substantial con- tribution to the State and Central Go- vernments revenues. According to the latest information available, the average daily employment in Tea, Coffee and Rubber plantations was about 8.5 lakhs. Under the Plantations Labour Act which is meant to ensure minimum standards of living conditions and welfare of wor- kers, it is the statutory responsibility of the owners to provide facilities such as housing, education, medical aid, etc. The State Governments who administer the Act take steps to see that these sta- tutory obligations are fulfilled. However the facilities relating to education, me- dical aid etc. which are generally made available to the public by the State and Central Governments can also be availed of by the plantation workers.

Extra Departmental Employers of P&T

4105. DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAM- MAD : Will the Minister of COMMU- NICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that persons working as a Extra Departmental Sorters are asked by the Post and Telegraph De- partment to work as Class IV Extra De- partmental Porter before they are allowed to appear for the promotion exa- mination;

(b) whether Extra Departmental Sor- ters who are matriculates are not ab- sorbed as regular full time Sorters while Extra Departmental Porters who have no qualifications are absorbed within three years; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the discrimina- tion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNI- CATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRA- SAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) and (b). No Sir. They are merely part-time workers not like Class IV employees who are whole time workers.

(c) Does not arise.

Shifting of National Labour Institute to Poona

4106. DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAM- MAD: Will the Minister of PARLIA- MENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to change the decision to locate the National Labour Institute in Poona; and

(b) if not, when the Institute is likely to be permanently shifted to Poona?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) and (b). The entire question of permanent location of the National Labour Institute is under examination of the Government.

New Telephone Exchange at village Ugamadi, District Bhavnagar

4107. SHRI PRASAN NBHAI MEH- TA: Will the Minister of COMMUNI- CATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to open a new telephone exchange at village Ugamadi, district Bhavnagar in Gujarat State:

(b) if so, when the same is likely to be set and the total cost of expenditure in- volved; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNI- CATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRA- SAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a): to (c). 15 persons have registered their demand for telephone connections at Ugamadi.