

Cooperative Marketing Federation
Onion trucks meant for sale in Delhi
to sell the onion at a premium ;
and

(b) if so, what measures have
been taken by Government to ensure
that the onions reach the common
masses and are sold at Rs. 2 per kg.
fixed by National Agricultural Coope-
rative Marketing Federation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICUL-
TURE AND RURAL RECONS-
TRUCTION (SHRI R. V.
SWAMINATHAN): (a) It is not
a fact that traders have bought
trucks of onion of NAFED meant
for retail distribution in Delhi.

(b) At the instance of the Govt.
NAFED, Super Bazar and Delhi
Civil Supplies Corporation entered
the market to sell onions in retail at
reasonable prices in Delhi. Onions
are being sold by these organisations
at a retail price of Rs. 1.75 per kg.
Besides supplying onions in bulk to
Super Bazar and Delhi Civil Supplies
Corporation and to Mahila Dakshita
Samiti, NAFED have also been sel-
ling onions in retail to consumers in
Delhi through their own Kisoks and
mobile vans. In all, there are about
100 retail outlets of these organisa-
tions which are selling onions at Rs.
1.75 per kg. in Delhi.

Conversion of Consultative Committees into Standing Parliamentary Committees

2399. SHRI BAPUSAHEB
PARULEKAR : Will the Minister
of PARLIAMENARY AFFAIRS
be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal
to convert the Consultative Com-
mittees attached to various Ministries
into Standing Parliamentary Com-
mittees with investigatory powers;

(b) whether the working of the
executive will be the sole purpose
of the Consultative Committees;
and

(c) if not, what other functions
are to be added to the rights of the
Consultative Committees?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIA-
MENTARY AFFAIRS AND
WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI
BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH) : (a)
No, Sir.

(b) The functioning of the Con-
sultative Committees is regulated
under the guidelines formulated in
April, 1969 in consultation with the
Opposition Parties in Parliament.

(c) There is no proposal at
present to add any other functions
to the Consultative Committees.

Write off Loan taken by Weaker Section of Society

2400. SHRI GIRIDHAR
GOMANGO : Will the Minister of
AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that some States
have written off the loans, particu-
larly taken by the weaker sections of
the population to free them from the
loan bondage;

(b) if so, the names of the States
and the measures taken by them to
write off the loans particularly of
Government and Cooperative Loans;

(c) why the States having sub-
stantial tribal and Harijan population
are not coming forward for such
measures to free them from long
standing Government Loans; and

(d) the measures taken by his
Ministry to free the loan bondage of
these weaker sections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICUL-
TURE AND RURAL RECONS-
TRUCTION (SHRI R.V. SWAMI-
NATHAN) : (a) to (d). So far as
institutional loans taken by weaker
sections of the society are concerned,

the State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra decided to write off the dues. The State Governments of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal had introduced measures of relief such as waiver of interest on loans, rescheduling of loans, waiver of penal interests. Full details about the position/decision of the other States are not available.

2. As regards loans taken by the weaker sections of society from non-institutional sources, the Government of India had issued details guidelines to all the State Governments and Union Territories to take appropriate legislation to give relief to the weaker sections. The State Governments and Union Territories have accordingly taken legislative action and measures to provide such relief. As a follow-up action, the State Governments/Union Territories have also been advised to assess the impact of these enactments and consider further measures to be taken in pursuance of the objective of providing debt relief. The measures taken by the various State Governments included discharge of debt benefit, moratorium on debt etc. in respect of small/marginal farmers etc. within certain parameters.

3. The Government of India are not in favour of any measures involving blanket write off of institutional loans as it tends to vitiate the climate for recovery, encourage wilful default and undermine the viability of credit institutions. The State Governments have been advised of the need to adopt a cautious approach in this regard. However, Government of India does recognise that some support is needed by way of relief in certain circumstances. Mechanisms/measures have been provided, hence, for giving relief by

way of conversions of short-term loans into medium-term loans, rescheduling of institutional loans as well as write-off of part of the dues of the weaker sections in special circumstances where the liability is beyond their repaying capacity.

Export of Onions by NAFED

2401. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOEL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of onions exported by NAFED to various countries during the last three years ;

(b) whether onions still continue to be exported; if so, the details; and

(c) whether Government propose to rectify the scheme in the interest of common people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION : (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN) : (a) Statement is enclosed.

(b) The export of onions is canalised through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED). NAFED suspended export of onions when prices started rising within the country. Restrictions on export of onions are still operating.

(c) The canalisation and regulation of export of onions through NAFED is already serving the interest of the common people.