

(b) In accordance with the Terms of Reference, the Committee has enquired into the circumstances leading to the death of Major H.V. Bahuguna. The Committee has come to the conclusion that Major Bahuguna's death was due to exhaustion and prolonged exposure to extreme cold and severe wind-chill. The Committee ruled out wilful foul-play on any one's part, but it did state that Major Bahuguna might not have lost his life if Mr. Axt had with him his essential safety equipment and travelled close to Major Bahuguna, who was his rope-mate.

(c) After examining the report of the Committee, the Indian Mountaineering Foundation has decided to adopt the following policy with regard to participation of Indian mountaineers on an International Expedition :

- (i) participation should be by a team comprising more than one Indian member.
- (ii) participation of Indian team should be on Leadership/Co-leadership basis.

The Government of India have set up a Committee to make a full review of the training syllabi, lesson plans and methods of instruction followed by the Mountaineering Institutes at Darjeeling and Uttar Kashi, as well as for a study of techniques and steps which are necessary to ensure better safety standards on future expeditions.

#### PL. 480 Agreement for Supply of Soyabean Oil and Cotton

\*1760. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there had been any progress in the negotiations between India and USA for a new PL. 480 agreement for the supply of substantial quantities of soyabean oil and cotton ; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). Our request for the supply of cotton and soyabean oil under a new PL. 480 agreement is under consideration by USA. Negotiations

on the new PL. 480 agreement will be commenced as soon as the Government of USA inform us of the quantities of cotton and soyabean oil which they can provide under the new agreement.

#### Loans Given to Co-operative Societies by Nationalised Banks

1761. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loans given to Co-operative Societies by each Nationalised Bank since nationalisation to 1st October, 1971, State-wise ; and

(b) the percentage of such loans given to the Co-operative Societies in Bihar State ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### Aid given by Agricultural Refinance Corporation

1762. SHRI RAMKANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) total financial aid given for agricultural development by the Agricultural Refinance Corporation during the current year ;

(b) various purposes for which this aid was utilised ; and

(c) the boost which such aid has given to the agricultural development in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) During the current year *viz.*, from July 1971 to 15th November, 1971, the Agricultural Refinance Corporation has sanctioned 52 Schemes involving financial assistance of Rs. 35.76 crores with the Corporation's commitment of Rs. 31.86 crores.

(b) The purposes for which financial assistance has been extended by the Corporation are ; (i) minor irrigation, (ii) land development under major irrigation projects, (iii) farm mechanization (iv) poultry farming,