

team of officers. If any State Government seeks any assistance, it should not be deducted from its quota. It happens every year and a team of officers visits the State every year. In this connection, a provision for setting up a team of officers for the States should be made.

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that it is not so as the hon. Member has said. No State Government is being neglected. Rs. 105 crore was given to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. In this regard, statistics are available with me, there is nothing to hide. The practice we have adopted is same for every state. We have given calamity relief fund to every state. We have given calamity relief fund to every state. We have not done that. It has been done by the State Government itself. The Committee of Chief Secretaries decides as to how much and when it is to be given and according to that decision this fund is given to all the state Governments. There is no partiality in it.

[*Translation*]

**To be Answered on the 2nd April, 1992  
Sen Committee**

\*513. **SHRIRAMTAHALCHOUHARY:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the purpose for which Sen Committee was constituted;

(b) the broad recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

[*English*]

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR):** (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

## STATEMENT

(a) The Committee on Agricultural Productivity in Eastern India under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.R. Sen was constituted jointly by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in March, 1983. The Committee was set up to study the trends of agricultural production and productivity in Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa and Eastern Uttar Pradesh; to identify constraints in achieving the potential levels of production; and to suggest measures, with particular reference to credit and investment, for achieving maximum possible production potential.

(b) Main spear-heads of development for Eastern States as recommended by the Committee inter-alia included massive provision of tube wells, pumps, controlled use of irrigation, appropriate water management techniques, adequate drainage net work, micro watershed development, orientation of input services and extension support to small and marginal farmers, land reforms, revitalisation of credit and cooperative institutions etc.

(c) The recommendations of the Committee were considered at a conference of Chief Ministers of Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal held at Patna on 8th January, 1986 under the Chairmanship of the then Union Agriculture Minister. In the conference, there was a wide agreement on the strategic recommendations of the Committee. Since Agriculture is a State subject, the concerned State Governments were advised to implement the recommendations as part of their Plan Programmes. The State were also called upon to improve the quality of agricultural management, full utilisation of resources available under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and enforce credit discipline.

In response to the follow-up action initiated by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, the information received so far reveals that many of the recommendations

of the Committee are by and large included in their various on-going and new programmes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that the Sen Committee was constituted in March, 1933 and it gave its recommendations about the assistance to be given for irrigation facilities and tube-wells into and for the damage caused by floods in Bihar. The hon. Minister has replied that the work is being done at many places. But the Committee had recommended that the problems of Bihar, i.e. flood and irrigation can't be solved until the Central Government takes the assistance from the World Bank. Bihar is the most backward State in the matter of irrigation.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Sir, my submission is that the Committee had recommended to take measures to control the flood there as well as increase the irrigation facility in Bihar. Is the hon. Minister considering it. Does he want to increase irrigation facility in Bihar.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Does it come out of this question?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Let it be a relevant supplementary, please.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Then, this will be the first one.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: A multipurpose Survarana Rekha project is being implemented in Bihar, but the project can't be completed without the assistance of the World Bank. The work has been going on

since 1983. The area which is known as Chandil Dam in Sihbhoom is a tribal area.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Your main question relates to the Sen Committee Report. Your supplementary should come out of it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: It does relate to it. The work has been going on for a long time. I would like that the Government of India may clear it and get it completed after getting the assistance from the World Bank.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: This question does not relate to the main question. However, I would like to say that the hon. Member that he may come to me and then both of us would discuss it.

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The appointment of the Sen Committee was necessitated because of the Green Revolution in some parts of the country; and these were rain-fed areas. Now, it is true that agriculture, by and large, is a State subject, yet there are two areas where the Centre has something to do. One is the banking facilities- the credit deposit ratio for small and marginal farmers. So far as the priority sector is concerned, there is a threat arising out of the Narasimhan Committee Report that priority sector lending would be reduced. Would the Minister take up the matter with the Finance Ministry so that in these areas at least the credit deposit ratio for small and marginal farmers is not only retained at the present level but also increased?

And the second aspect where the Centre may have some role is in shifting the allocation of fund to large scale irrigation in these areas. Uptill now, for instance, the Treasta Project is not supported very much by the Centre. I am talking of Bihar, Orissa and these areas. On these two areas, whether

the allocation and the approach is being modified to the extent that the San Committee's recommendations can be implemented.

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** The hon. Member has asked about the irrigation plan. That has to be referred to the Irrigation Ministry what they are going to do. But, I would like that it should be done because that is the only way to increase productivity.

Your second point is about loan. We will take care and safeguard the interest of the small and marginal farmers. My own difficulty is that there are certain schemes, at a given time, without giving proper thought, where we will have to take into consideration the consequences it will have after they are put into operation. The loan waiver scheme, I am afraid, destroys the credibility of my credit system; and I am to restructure it. I have to take a lot of pain to make it again on its legs so that we can provide some relief and make available credit which is needed by the agriculture, because today agriculture is investment-oriented; without investment, there can be no agriculture.

[Translation]

**SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:** The Sen Committee was constituted, to make study about the Eastern Uttar Pradesh also apart from Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa. Azamgarh and Ballia come under Gorakhpur and Varanasi Division which are the most backward districts. Here, the population is more dense than the average population of the country but the per capita income is the lowest. These districts are still backward in respect of irrigation, industry and agriculture even today. The Government of India has put little efforts in this regard. The Central Government has done only one thing that after convening a meeting of Chief Ministers during 1986, the State Governments were directed to implement their schemes. Leaving aside it, nothing was done, I would like to know from the Minister of Agriculture whether he would set up any Committee to uplift and develop these facilities keeping in view the

backwardness and poverty prevalent in the area where there is less agricultural facility. What progress has been made by the Committee which was set up after 1986? How much developmental work has been done in this regard. Besides, would you convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers and consider it? Mr. Speaker, Sir, for your information, I may tell you that the Central Government had set up the Patel Committee for the development of these eastern districts at the instance of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. Whether any progress has been made in these backward areas? Is the Minister of Agriculture is considering to formulate a special scheme?

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Yadav has correctly said that a meeting of Chief Ministers was convened in 1986 and it was decided that the meeting would be held in Uttar Pradesh next year. But the said meeting could not be held. I mean to say that the State Governments have not paid any attention towards it and no meeting was held after that.

The Sen Committee had made many recommendations and out of these, 147 recommendations were accepted. It was not their concept that we would not work.

[English]

The Central Government on its part has taken a number of measures, particularly in the areas of extension, training, research, supplies and inputs, credit and services, irrigation, drainage, soil conservation and a number of thrust programmes to accelerate the pace of agricultural development in the Eastern region. The steps taken by NABARD are also quite encouraging. Planning Commission is providing an enhanced outlay for the region. However, the progress has not been up to the expectation because of the lukewarm approach of the State Governments.

[Translation]

—then I feel very sorry and I would like to request Mr. Yadav that all depend on

the driver that whether he drives fast or slow. It also happens in eastern U.P. I visited West Bengal and returned back yesterday only. This time, considerable progress has been made in the field of agriculture there. Likewise, there has been some progress in U.P. in this regard. But much work has to be done in Bihar and Orissa. All of us should work there, but much depend on the State Government as agriculture is a state subject. I would like to grant aid whatever we can give. If there is a need of foodgrains in the country, it can only be met out through agriculture. We can get more production at such places where there has been less. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb like this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: You should listen to me. It is an important matter, our intention is to do the work. There was Sardar Pratap Singh Kairo in Punjab. He was a dynamic personality. He had a will power of achieving progress. Will power made him successful. People have to do their work. We have to work. The people don't believe unless they witness it with their own eyes. It will increase the production if we put efforts in Bihar, Orissa and eastern U.P. A lot of work has to be done in eastern U.P. You must have the intention of doing work. God has given us all resources. There are our assets. We could not mobilise them. I will do it definitely.

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Mr. Speaker, I seek your protection because the hon. Minister in his answer and to the supplementaries also, is just making general remarks. The statistics and the recommendations of the Sen Committee are quite clear. The Sen Committee was constituted by the RBI and NABARD in the year 1983. Only one meeting of the Chief Ministers was held in 1986 and after that the Government of India has not

taken any initiative for a meeting. What are the recommendations and what progress has been made in the field? The hon. Minister has just stated that it is a state subject and it is the look out of the State Governments. It is known that the Central Government's investment in Orissa is the lowest in the country and the per capita income of Orissa is the lowest in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it aside.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Unless the Government of India takes the initiative and gives priority in this field the scenario of Orissa and Bihar will not change.

May I know from the hon. Minister what steps he is going to take as per the recommendations of the Sen Committee through it is too late now? Are you going to take any special measures in this regard?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I think I have explained everything. I have all the intentions which a man can have to increase productivity. Nothing can be far from my mind than to increase the productivity. There are 361 recommendations out of which 147 were adopted. But it depends upon the stuff, it depends upon the people who have to derive that energy out of the people to make something go. My Research, my Department, the credit system, whatever is available with me, are at your disposal. I am going to hold that meeting. That is what I have said. After 1986, there was no meeting. It should have been taken up by the people. The Government of U.P. had extended the invitation to hold that meeting. Why did they do it? I am going to force them to do it now. I am going to make them come together. We shall see what can be done. Why should it not be done? why should Orissa lag behind?

Look here, there is one question I give you. At the time of partition; Punjab, Haryana, Kangra District, Una and Chandigarh territory were one. They had a deficit of 33 thousand tonnes of stuff to feed themselves and today they are giving about 70 per cent to the kitty. Why could it not be done? So, we

have to do it.

[Translation]

### Supply of LPG Refills

\*514. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the maximum number of gas connections fixed for each LPG agency in Delhi as well as in other parts of the country;

(b) the maximum number of consumers who can be registered with an agency;

(c) whether a large number of agencies

are unable to provide LPG refills to the consumers in time; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to minimise the time for supply of LPG refills to the consumers?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The maximum number of gas connections fixed for an LPG Agency except to Co-operative Societies is determined on the basis of refill sales in various parts of the country including Delhi. The ceiling for refill sales in various cities are as follows:

(i) In Bombay	8,000
(ii) In Delhi, Calcutta, Madras	6,500
(iii) In towns with population between 20-40 lakhs	6,000
(iv) In towns with population between 10-20 lakhs	5,000
(v) All towns with population upto 10 lakhs	4,000

(b) No ceiling has been fixed.

(c) and (d). LPG refills are being provided to consumers in time as far as possible. However, individual complaints, as and when received, are being attended promptly. Efforts are constantly on, to ensure that no delay in supply of refills takes place.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my first question relates to part (a). My question consists of two parts. First part is what is the basis of fixing ceiling of connections and the second part is what is machinery with the Government to ensure its implementation because

there are agencies in Delhi which have 7000 to 10,000 connections. So, what is the machinery with Government to ensure the implementation of ceiling?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the hon. Member is right that there are many distributors in Delhi who are having more than the ceiling limit with regard to the customers that they are entitled to. Now, distortions took place on account of various issues. - firstly, the location of the agency in a particular area; Secondly, the purchasing capacity of the people who are around a particular agency and thirdly, the expansion of the population which is creating puzzles to the town planners and city planners.

As far as non-viable agencies are con-