

SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Technical Teachers' Training Institute (Western Region), Bhopal, for the year 1970-71. [*Placed in Library. See. No. LT-3444/72.*]

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENTS ON FLOOD SITUATION

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL): I beg to lay on the Table a Supplementary statement on the flood situation in the country. [*Placed in Library. See. No. LT-3445/72.*]

12.38 hrs.

STATEMENT ON MARKET BORROWINGS DURING 1972-73

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement on market borrowings during 1972-73. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-3447/72.*]

12.38½ hrs.

CONVICTION OF MEMBER

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform the House that I have received the following wireless message, dated the 19th August, 1972, from the Magistrate, Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh. As a matter of fact, throughout yesterday, I kept on receiving one intimation or other from some source or other, from some police station somewhere, that Mrs. Nayar has been arrested. I do not know how many intimations I received yesterday.

"Shrimati Shakuntala Nayar, Member, Lok Sabha, was arrested under Section 228, Indian Penal Code, and convicted to pay a fine of Rs. 100/- and in default one week's simple imprisonment by Tehsildar Magistrate at Kaisarganj today. She did not pay fine and so she has been sent to District Jail, Bahraich."

12.40 hrs.

GENERAL INSURANCE BUSINESS (NATIONALISATION) BILL

(i) REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE

SHRI DARBARA SINGH (Hoshiarpur): I beg to present the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of shares of Indian insurance companies and undertakings of other existing insurers in order to serve better the needs of the economy by securing the development of general insurance business in the best interests of the community and to ensure that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth to the common detriment, for the regulation and control of such business and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(ii) EVIDENCE

SHRI DARBARA SINGH: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the the evidence given before the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of shares of Indian insurance companies and undertakings of other existing insurers in order to serve better the needs of the economy by securing the development of general insurance business in the best interest of the community and to ensure that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth to the common detriment, for the regulation and control of such business and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

12.42 hrs.

STATEMENT RE-INTERIM REPORTS OF NATIONAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE

MR. SPEAKER: Shri F. A. Ahmed to make a statement on the Interim Reports by the National Commission on Agriculture. He may lay it on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED): I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the submission of four Interim Reports by the National Commission on Agriculture.

Statement

As Members are aware the National Commission on Agriculture set up by the Government of India has been asked to make Interim recommendations on such items of the Terms of Reference given to

them as it may deem fit. The Commission submitted in November, 1971, three Interim Reports on the following subjects :—

1. Multiplication and Distribution of Quality Seeds pertaining to High-Yielding varieties of Hybrids of Cereals.
2. Fertiliser Distribution.
3. Some Aspects of Agricultural Research, Extension and Training.

The Commission submitted a further set of three Interim Reports in January, 1972 viz :

1. Credit Services for Small and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers.
2. Milk Production through Small and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Universities.
3. Establishment of Agro-meteorological Divisions in Agricultural Universities.

Copies of these Reports have already been placed in the Library of Parliament.

The Commission has presented today to the Government of India the following four Reports :

1. Production Forestry—Man-made Forests.
2. House Sites for Landless Agricultural Labourers.
3. Soil Survey and Soil Map of India.
4. Potato Seeds.

These Reports have been placed in the Library of Parliament. A Summary of the important recommendations made in these Interim Reports is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

I have directed my Department to examine recommendations quickly before Government takes further action in the matter.

Summary of re-commendations made in Interim Reports

The National Commission of Agriculture has submitted to Government of India four Interim Reports today dealing with :

1. Production Forestry—Man-made Forests ;
2. House sites for Landless Agricultural Labourers ;
3. Soil Survey and Soil Map of India ; and
4. Potato Seed.

Interim Report on Production Forestry— Man-made Forests

In its Interim Report on Production Forestry—Man-made Forests, the Commission has noted that the present yield from Indian forests is dismally low and has advocated a rational development and utilisation of forestry resources in the country. It has strongly recommended a change-over from the present conservation-oriented forestry to a more dynamic programme of production forestry with a view to meeting the requirements of wood and wood-based industries. Considering the advantages of aggressive man-made forestry programme, the future production programme should concentrate on clear felling of valuable mixed forests, mixed quality forests and inaccessible hardwood forests and planting this area with suitable hardwood and fastgrowing species yielding higher return per unit area. The resulting produce from the clear felling areas is to be utilised in wood-based industries by locating additional units wherever necessary.

A programme of clearfelling and planting of about one lakh hectares annually in the next 7 years of the current decade in the inaccessible hardwood forests and mixed forests of valuable and low quality as well as intensification in the coniferous forests has been recommended to meet the future requirements. In the next decade, the annual felling area will be enhanced to enable exports on a moderate scale. The programme of clearfelling and plantation will require an investment of Rs. 242 crores

during the years 1974-80 of which the investment during the Fifth Plan is estimated at Rs. 173 crores. During the next decade an investment of Rs. 306 crores has been recommended.

The Commission has pointed out that the production forestry and the industries programmes suggested in the Report are self-generating and will pay back adequately. Illustrative models showing the economics of the production forestry have been worked out as guidelines for the formulation of the programmes by the States.

While emphasising commercialisation of the production forestry, the Commission has emphasised the need for a proper linkage between forestry production and utilisation. To this end, it has recommended the establishment of wood based industries. In the current decade, an investment of Rs. 815 crores in industries has been suggested. Of this, the investment in paper and pulp industry will be Rs. 611 crores. In the next decade, an investment of Rs. 1,187 crores will be needed in the industries of which paper and pulp account for Rs. 979 crores. In view of the sluggish performance by the private sector in the matter of investment, the Commission has recommended that the States may have to invest between Rs. 160 to 340 crores in paper and pulp industries in the public sector during Fifth Plan after allowing for investments by the existing public sector enterprises.

The Commission has also strongly advocated that the programme be taken up from the beginning of 1974 for clearfelling, plantation and maintenance. In view of the magnitude of the investment involved in the entire programme and paucity of Plan resources, the future production forestry programme is recommended to be financed from institutional sources. The Agricultural Refinance Corporation has been suggested as the agency to directly finance the production forestry programme by changing its Statutes suitably. In case this is not possible, a Central Forest Credit Corporation has to be organised. The industries programme has to be financed from industrial lending agencies such as IFC, ICICI and IDB. In order to avail of the institutional financing, State Forest

Corporations are to be set up in each State to handle the programme. These Corporations will borrow money on the basis of equity capital of land and standing timber. For this, the State Government will transfer the areas under the programme to the Corporations and take only the average revenue of the last three years from these areas and leave the rest of the income from clearfelling to support the programme. These Corporations may either take up the supporting paper and pulp industries directly or form subsidiaries to handle the industries programme.

In order that the work can be taken up immediately, each State which takes up the programme should establish a Planning and Project Analysis and Estimation Cell which will be the forerunner of the Corporation. The Report has also recommended the strengthening of the Utilisation Cell in the Chief Conservator's Office and establishment of an Industrial Cell for the industries programme. A Planning Cell has also been suggested in the Union Ministry of Agriculture to help the States in formulating and implementing the production forestry programmes.

In dealing with the pricing policy, the Commission has emphasised that there has to be an incentive for the change-over from the low-cost low-yield forestry to commercial high-investment economic forestry. The price for the produce has to be so fixed as to pay for the cost of clearfelling and plantation and leave a profit. A rational pricing policy for bamboo and pulp wood has also been recommended.

The programme suggested is expected to provide annual employment of 50 million man-days (or 250,000 man-years) mainly in the rural sector of the hilly and backward regions where most of the unexploited forests are located. There will be additional employment in industries. The massive labour requirement will mean organising and training a labour force of considerable magnitude for which action has to be taken by the States.

Interim Report Hopes sites for Landless Agricultural Labourers

In its Interim Report on Hoes Sites for Landless Agricultural Labourers, the

Commission has advocated a production programme for them simultaneously with the measures for providing them with security of shelter. This will require a more comprehensive approach to the solution of the problems of the landless than merely providing them with house sites. The Commission has recommended various subsidiary occupations for the landless labourers and artisans which will bring them into the main-stream of the productive process. Milk production, poultry keeping vegetable gardening are some activities which can be undertaken on limited amounts of land and which will at the same time give reasonable subsidiary income to the families. This approach will give better employment and add to production.

The permanent right to a small piece of land where the agricultural labourer can build a shelter and follow an enterprise will also have an immediate effect on his social status and give his greater stability in life. This will also enable him to avail of assistance under various programmes like MFAL. Keeping this in view, the Commission has recommended modifications in the scheme of the Ministry of Works and Housing for the provision of house sites. It has recommended that where land is available and space can be provided for the cattle-shed or poultry or piggery or village industry along with the site for a house, an area between 250 sq yards and 300 sq. yards may be provided. Where adequate land is available and water can be provided for vegetable growing, an area of 500 sq. yards has been recommended.

The house sites, the housing and the subsidiary occupation programmes have to be planned and coordinated affectively for concerted development. The entire programme for providing house sites should be time bound and completed in a phased and planned manner. The Commission has recommended that in the next 10 years a programme for 3 million landless Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes families and another 2 million landless agricultural labour families belonging to other sections should be taken up for implementation. Annually, 3 lakh landless Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe families and 2 lakh landless families of other categories will thus be covered. For this, investment has been esti-

mated at about Rs. 22.5 crores for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families and Rs. 15 crores for other sections of the landless annually to meet the cost of acquisition of land development of house sites.

The Commission has also stressed the desirability of having a separate Rural Housing Board in each State to supervise the implementation of the programme. It has advocated suitable assistance for the construction of house by the landless agricultural labour on the sites allotted to them.

Interim Report on soil survey and soil map of India

In its Interim Report on Soil Survey and Soil Map of India, the Commission has recommended that expeditious measures should be taken to prepare the soil map of India in the scale of 1:81 million within a reasonably short period, say, 10 years, for which the requisite number of soil survey parties should be organised in accordance with the specific requirements of the States and the Centre. The Commission considers that all development programmes in agriculture should be dependent on a scientific knowledge of the basic soil resource. A study of the present status of the soil survey in the country has revealed that there are considerable gaps in the soil survey, soil map and correlation and classification of the differentiated soils. There is a great necessity for preparation of scientific inventory of the soil resources of the country to form a basis for crop planning, intensive agriculture and a number of non-farm activities.

The Commission has felt that for accelerating the soil survey work, aerial photographs should be made available at least for the non-sensitive areas. It has also been recommended that for the purpose of carrying out soil survey, mapping, correlation, classification and interpretation on a standard pattern, necessary training facilities already available with the All India Soil and Land Use Survey Organisation should be strengthened.

For the purpose of unification of soil survey work throughout the country, a close liaison between the Central and the State

Comm. on Agrl. (St.)

[Shri F. A. Ahmed]

Soil Survey Organisation is imperative. For this the Commission has recommended that Co-ordination Committees should be activated or set up at the State and national levels. State Co-ordination Committees should utilise the existing data on soil survey for land use and crop planning after due interpretation.

Intrm Report on Potato Seed

In its Interim Report on Potato Seed, the Commission has given its recommendations fixing the responsibilities for the multiplication of potato seed at various stages. The overall all-India yield of potato is only 83 quintals per hectare at present but there are possibilities of doubling the same. One single factor that will contribute materially to bring about this change is the use of high quality seed. The National Commission on Agriculture has, therefore, given priority to the question as to how best the area under potato can be saturated with good seed material.

The Commission has suggested streamlining of arrangements for multiplication, storage and distribution. The Central Potato Research Institute should be responsible for the production of breeder's seed and the National Seeds Corporation and other well developed agencies for the production, storage and distribution of seed material at foundation stage I. The responsibility of organising production at foundation stage II has been sought to be placed on the Department of Agriculture/Horticulture in the State. The same Agency will also be responsible for organisation and coordination of seed multiplication, storage and distribution at the certified stage in each State. The existing lacunae in storage and transport are also sought to be removed through suitable measures. It has also been recommended that potato should be brought under the Seed Law and seed distribution should be organised in every State to ensure the supply of quality seed.

In order to prevent the introduction of new diseases and pests through continued import of seed material, the Commission has suggested complete banning of imports of foreign seed potato except for the material needed for new introductions where the

imports should be made under conditions of rigid quarantine procedures. It has also suggested that a rigorous ban on a uniform basis should be imposed on the movement of seed potato within the country from all such areas which have recognisedly developed diseases and pests and whose spread can pose a threat to the crop in other parts of the country.

The Commission has also recommended the creation of Potato Seed Development Councils in the States and at the Centre in order to review and make recommendations on matters pertaining to production, distribution, transport, storage, marketing, quality control, publicity and incentive aspects of the potato seed development programmes.

12 43 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FIFTEEN REPORT

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS (SHRI KEDAR NATH
SINGH) : On behalf of Shri Raj Bahadur,
I beg to move :

"That this House do agree with the
Fifteenth Report of the Business Advisory
Committee presented to the House on
the 18th August, 1972."

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond
Harbour) : May I submit. . .

MR. SPEAKER : I have mentioned
the other day that points about the business
of the House should be raised only when
the Minister makes the statement about
Government business for following week.
When the report of the BAC is brought
forward for adoption no such points should
be raised.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : This
point came to my notice afterwards.

MR. SPEAKER : He may raise it
later. Now the question is :

"That this House do agree with the
Fifteenth Report of the Business Advi-
sory Committee presented to the House
on the 18th August, 1972."

The motion was adopted