

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Monday, December 16, 1985/Agrahayana 25,  
1907 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

### OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Members, this House has learnt with deep sorrow of the death of Sri Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Governor-General of Mauritius. A great crusader in the cause of peace, Shri Ramgoolam was a sincere friend of India. A valiant freedom fighter, he had become a legend in his own life time. It was he who fought for the emancipation of the indentured labour in Mauritius and brought them out of the gloom of slavery into bright sunshine of independence. We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our deep sense of grief to the people of Mauritius. Our condolences may also be conveyed to the members of the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

*(The Members then stood in silence for  
a short while)*

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Setting up of National Agro-Industries Corporation

\*390. †DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :  
SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any expert committee was appointed by Government to examine *inter-alia* the question of setting up of a National Agro-Industries Corporation;

(b) whether this committee has submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and when the report is likely to be submitted ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
(S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement is given below.

#### Statement

An Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of the then Additional Secretary (Input), Shri P.S. Kohli, was appointed vide Ministry of Agriculture order No. 3-17/82-MY (A1) dated the 28th July, 1982. The representatives from various Departments, Agro Industries Corporations, Planning Commission etc. were represented on the Committee. The terms of reference of the Committee were as under :-

(i) to consider the role and activities of the State Agro Industries Corporations and the directions for future growth;

(ii) (a) to consider the setting up of a national level organisation for providing finance, technical and consultancy services to the corporations.

(b) to suggest the structure of the proposed organisation and its charter of functions.

The Committee held three sittings on 5th September, 1982, 17th November, 1982 and 26th April, 1983. The Committee made, amongst others, the following recommendation regarding setting up off a national level organisation.

"The Committee recommends the establishment of a national level organisation for providing technical and consultancy services and finance to the Agro Industries Corporations. This organisation should be called "National Agro Industries Consultancy and Finance Corporation" and should be set up as a company under the Companies Act, with the following objectives :

- a) to provide technical and consultancy services to the Agro Industries Corporations :
- b) to coordinate the work of the Corporations and develop multi-corporation-projects :
- c) to provide equity capital for new projects :
- d) to provide export import services to the Corporations :

to assist in improving the managerial and technical expertise of the Corporations."

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Hon. Speaker, I am very much grateful to the hon. Minister because he is always answering to my questions in an elaborate manner giving detailed information very satisfactorily. But I want to know one thing. The Minister has opined in so many meetings about the objective of the agro-based industries to increase the agro-based economy in our country and in the Third World. He has got in his mind so many criteria, there are 17 agro industries corporations throughout the country when the Green Revolution has been started in the country. I want to know whether all these 17 agro-based corporations are working perfectly according to the needs of the agriculturists and are engaging themselves for procurement of paddy and distribution of fertiliser. Is the Minister satisfied or not.

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, I am not as satisfied as the hon. Member is because the functioning of the State Agro Industries Corporation is far from being satisfactory and we are looking as to how best we can help the poor farmers, specially the small and marginal farmers and the farmers in the

tribal belts because the agricultural implements are not available with these small farmers and we are seriously thinking as to how best we can have some kind of an apex body, may be even through the National Association of State Agro Industries Corporations that we can supply the bullock drawn small implements to all these marginal and small farmers at a comparatively cheaper price so that the agricultural production all over the country including that of the small and marginal farmers can go up.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Already the Committee has given its report and the recommendations in 1983. Has already the corporation been set up ? If not, why there is so much delay ?

What is the total amount of money allocated under the Seventh Five Year Plan to give boost for the agro-industries corporations, in the joint sector ? What is the amount of equity participation of the centre *inter alia* States ?

Is the Ministry taking cognisance of the difficulties of the Third world countries and considering whether design parameters can be given to the Third World who have not yet developed design standard on their own ?

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, the recommendations of the Committee broadly are these :

They wanted that input distribution should continue to be the major role of the agro-industries corporation ; they could have multi-product outlet as also the customs hiring centre so that they are economically viable. Then is the distribution of tractors, agricultural implements and machinery. They wanted that Corporations should enter in a big way in the manufacture of improved bullock-drawn and tractor-drawn implements and that customs hiring of agricultural machinery should be reviewed. Further, the State Government should take a careful view before establishing new corporation which could compete with the agro-industries corporation or reduce their activities and profitability. Such a review should be conducted with all the existing corporations also.

Next, they wanted that where the Corporations have to undertake uneconomic activities at the behest of the State Government, the State Government should agree to bear the full loss. Then, they wanted that in order to ensure that the cooperatives and the corporations play a complementary role and not a competitive role, there should be a committee at the State level under the chairmanship of the Agricultural Production Commissioner.

The other point was that the Corporations have not fulfilled their objectives in the matter of promotion and establishment of agro based industries for various reasons. This is most important because so far they have been thriving only on subsidies and the subsidies available are as per the rates fixed under the IRDP. That is, 25% subsidy for the small farmers, 33% subsidy for the marginal farmers and 50% subsidy for the tribal farmers. Therefore, they wanted actually the independent units specially in the rural areas for manufacturing the implements for agriculture in the rural areas. That has not come up.

The hon. Member wanted to know the share capital Contribution of G.O. I. all the States. I can give the total and break-up. But it will take a long time. The total is Rs. 3155.693 lakhs.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, the agro-industries corporations are doing multi-farious business with regard to the farmers. Their main aim is to give subsidy in almost all aspects in order to help the farmers. But the subsidy given by the Government is not actually reaching the farmers. That is the main thing.

Another thing is, most of the State Governments are having parallel organisations just like this. Even in Tamil Nadu also, we are having ENCOFED, Engineering Cooperative Federation. They are doing the very same business. For the purpose of hiring tractors, the private owners are giving at a much lower rate than that of the agro-industries corporation. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether he is going to form an expert committee for all these things with regard to implements and in order to regulate all these things. I want to know whether the subsidy can

be given through the State Governments instead of giving it through the agro-industries corporation, It can be pooled together and it can be directly given to the farmers.

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, the present agro-industries corporations are well within the jurisdiction of the State Governments. The Central Government has a share in it. As the hon. Member also mentioned, supply of implements is one part. The other main objectives of the agro-industries corporation are-distribution of agricultural inputs, manufacture of agricultural implements, tools and machines, manufacture of pesticides and granulated fertilisers, processing of fruit and fruit products, promotion of agro-based industries, custom hiring and service facilities including the land-levelling work by bulldozers. These are the objectives for which the agro industries are established.

I agree with the Hon. Member that there are certain cooperative federations in the State which are competing with this Agro-Industries Corporation and making them not viable, because most of these Agro-industries Corporations are mainly managed on the aid given by the State and the Central Governments.

Therefore, as I said we have given priority to the small, marginal and tribal farmers who cannot afford the implements. The thrust is that these agro-industries corporations are trying to equip the poor farmers, the have-not farmers with the bullock-drawn carts and implements because energy is the biggest constraint on resources in the agro sector. For example, why have these corporations failed? Because most of the tubewells could not be energised as there was no supply of power and there was delay in giving power connections. Therefore, the money could not be utilised. So, these activities will have to be undertaken not only through these Corporations. Corporations can play some kind of a leading role in the district by in the block. But in the cooperative sector and in the private sector itself, these units manufacturing the agro implements and various other things must come up, so that the Agro-industries Corporation can play the lead role in coordinating these activities.

[Translation]

Statement

**SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN :** Hon. Speaker, Sir, the farmer of Rajasthan is hit by famine every year. The condition of the farmer in that State is beyond description. My submission is that seeds and implements should be supplied free of cost to the farmers of Rajasthan. Electricity tariff has now been double there. The first thing is that drinking water is not available there. Secondly, the water supplied there is so costly that the farmer cannot afford it. Drinking water and foodgrains are not available to the farmer there. I want to know as to what Government are going to do to help the farmer in the agricultural work in the State.

(Inter-rptions)

**MR. SPEAKER :** He has stopped the moment he got the hint.

**SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI :** The reply to Shri Ayub's question will not be confined to his own constituency, it will cover Sikar and Nagaur as well.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Next question, Shri T. Basheer.

[English]

#### Setting up of Manpower Corporations for Employment Opportunities Abroad

\*391. **SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL<sup>†</sup> :**

**SHRI T. BASHEER :** Will the MINISTER OF LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have advised the State Governments to set up Manpower Corporations to utilise the employment opportunities abroad and to protect the interests of workers;

(b) whether necessary action has been taken by all the States; and

(c) the steps taken to minimise cases of frauds and cheating by unscrupulous recruiting agents and delays in clearance workers going abroad ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) :** (a) to (c) A statement is given below.

The Central Government had advised the State Governments of Karnataka, Gujarat, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Union Territories of Delhi and Goa Daman Diu to establish manpower Corporations for protecting the interests of workers and utilisation of employment opportunities abroad. Replies have been received from the Union Territories Delhi and Goa Daman and Diu and the State Governments of Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. The Uttar Pradesh Government have now set-up a manpower corporation. Delhi Administration has decided to set-up a corporation for this purpose while Gujarat, Punjab and Goa Daman Diu are examining the feasibility of setting-up manpower corporations. Replies from other State Governments are still awaited. Overseas Manpower corporations are already in existence in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

2. In order to minimise cases of cheating and fraud by unscrupulous recruiting agents, prosecution is launched against such recruiting agents against whom charges of committing fraud/cheating are established. Registration Certificates of agents are also suspended/cancelled whenever necessary, where prima facie cases of irregularities committed by them are reported and substantiated. A number of steps have been initiated to simplify the procedures of granting clearance of workers going abroad by combining permission for recruitment and registration of their passports into one file. The staff for processing documents for emigration clearance has been augmented. Emigration clearance is now given in a short span of 3 days.

**SHRI T. BASHEER :** We are receiving lot of complaints about the cheating by these recruiting agencies. Here is a newspaper 'Malayalam Manorama' dated December 10. Here is a big new item. It is very interesting. Some girls are recruited by a Bombay-based agency and sent to Saudi Arabia. They changed their names. Shyamala is changed to Ajiya. Her name is changed. Passports are forged. The names of their parents are also changed. Prabha is changed to Rasia and Radhamma is changed to Rasia Sultana. They are recruited as cleaners.