

Affairs, whether the Government has any reports?

**SHRI AMAL DATTA :** In future all the Ministers will refer us to newspapers.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :** This is a very evasive reply.

**MR. SPEAKER :** When he says about the papers, you take note of it.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** In his answer to the question, he did not refer to newspaper reports. He referred to the reports. That means the reports received by the Government. I am here to address the question to the Government and the Minister is here to answer the question. I don't think the question should be taken so lightly.

**SHRI RAJIV GANDHI :** It would not be in public interest to disclose that in the House at this stage. If you like, I can talk to you confidentially and tell you the fact.

**DR. C. P. THAKUR :** There was a categorical statement by the Prime Minister that India is not going nuclear; we are going for nuclear activity for peace. But seeing the activities in this region, we are keeping the nuclear option open. Now, we have to do something if we stick to the first principle and we have to do something else if we stick to keeping the nuclear option open. Because if you keep the nuclear option open, we have to proceed in that direction. What are the reaction and activities of the government in this direction, in the light of these statements?

**SHRI B. R. BHAGAT :** We keep all these developments in constant review and we have stated our position that so far as our nuclear programme and nuclear policy is concerned, there is no change at the moment but the security aspect of it and the security dimensions as a result of the developments in the region we keep constantly under review.

#### Exploitation of Tribals by Multi-purpose Cooperative Societies

\*43. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :** Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Large Size Multipurpose Cooperative Societies set up in Orissa to end exploitation of tribals have turned out to be instruments of draining out resources from them ;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard or Union Government have sought any report from the Orissa Government ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) :** (a) Large-Sized Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS) have been set up in tribal Sub-plan States of the country with the three-fold objective of providing credit, arranging marketing of tribal products and supplying essential consumer goods to the tribal people. No specific instances is reported wherein LAMPS have become instruments of draining out resources from the tribal of Orissa.

(b) and (c) : Does not arise.

**SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :** It is good that the LAMPS are operating in the tribal Sub-Plan States and particularly in the tribal dominated areas, to help the tribals. But as it is found in the field, some of these societies, instead of helping the tribals, are exploiting them.

The objective of setting up such societies, especially the LAMPS, is three-fold as stated in the reply by the hon. Minister and out of these three objectives, as stated, only one objective, that is, helping the people by giving them loans is being achieved and is being implemented in the field, and not the other two—that is, arranging marketing of the tribal products and supplying essential consumer goods to the tribal people in Orissa. In respect of arranging marketing of tribal products, marginally in some areas, only one or two commodities are being procured and there too, proper price is not being paid because they take it under the monopoly scheme. For instance, tamarind which is a forest produce. The tribals are supplying and selling it in the open market at Rs. 3 per kg, but these societies are taking it only at

Rupee one per kg. Is this not exploitation, Sir? Further a most glaring and specific instance about this exploitation.. (*Interruptions*) I will put a specific question. This instance was brought to the notice of the hon. Minister in a meeting of MPs...

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a question, it is a dialogue.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : The hon. Minister of State was there at the meeting which took place on 1st October and I want to know what specific steps the Government are taking to end exploitation of poor tribals.

MR. SPEAKER : Why do you try to lose all the impact of the question?

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Whether this was brought to the notice of the hon. Minister in a meeting?

MR. SPEAKER : Please come prepared. Please don't lecture here. This is question time.

AN HON. MEMBER : You are not a Minister to do that.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Yes, there was a meeting of MPs on October last. Apart from the different points raised by hon. Members, this was one of the points raised—not in this line which the hon. Member is asking. The Co-operative Societies [LAMPS] are there but its functioning depends upon the State Government. The nationalisation of the minor forest produce has to be done by the State Government. It is relevant to mention here that the other activities have increased but the purchases of minor forest produce by the LAMPS are not many. Whether these Minor Forest Produce are to be nationalised or not is for the State Government to decide.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : We are unable to follow the Minister; so we cannot put questions.

MR. SPEAKER : The questioner has already understood the reply.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : They purchase it at Rs. 1 per kg. and sell it at Rs. 3 per kg. Is it not exploitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : This thing has not come to the knowledge of the Government.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister the number of LAMPS operating in Orissa and the number of tribal people who have been benefited out of it by now. Secondly, what are the commodities which are being procured and how much they have procured so far in Orissa?

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : There are 222 LAMPS in Orissa and some of them are tagged with TDCC. Apart from the consumer goods which are supplied through LAMPS, the purpose is that LAMPS should help the tribals. The main purpose of LAMPS was to purchase surplus agricultural produce and minor forest produce and arrange for their marketing. Secondly, to supply essential commodities and other consumer goods to the tribals through fair price shops in the tribal areas.

[*Translation*]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, similar societies have been set up in Uttar Pradesh with a view to end exploitation of the Adivasis, but unnecessary delay is caused by them in sanctioning loans. As such, they are made to waste a number of days in getting loans. I want to know from the hon. Minister the number of such societies and whether what I have said above is true and if so, what steps are being taken by the Government to check such things?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the main question relates to Orissa and not to Uttar Pradesh. In case the hon. Member wants to ask about Uttar Pradesh, he may ask a separate question. The question concerns the tribals.

MR. SPEAKER : Chandrashekharji, how have you entangled yourself in Orissa?

[*English*]

SHRI K. PRADHANI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister out of the

222 LAMPS set up in Orissa how many LAMPS are functioning properly, that is, purchasing forest produce and providing essential commodities to the tribals? As per my information most of the LAMPS are not functioning properly, namely, not purchasing these products and supplying essential commodities.

**DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI :** Sir, it is not correct to say that LAMPS are not functioning.

**MR. SPEAKER :** What are you referring to? Is it 'lamp' or 'Lamb'?

**DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI :** Sir, LAMPS is a large-sized multi-purpose cooperative society. The LAMPS are functioning in the tribal areas and from the figures you can see that in 1978-79 the marketing figure was Rs. 76 crores which has gone up in 1984-85 to Rs 300 crores. This is regarding the supply of consumer goods. It has gone up from 65.29 lakhs to 850 lakhs in 1984-85. That means they are catering to the needs of the people and they are fulfilling the aims and objectives for which they were established.

**SHRI R. P. DAS :** How many LAMPS are operating in the country? The objectives of the Sixth Five Year Plan was to enable the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes to cross the poverty line. In the context of the objectives of the Sixth Five Year Plan, I would like to know how many Large-Sized Multi-purpose Cooperative Societies are provided all over the country.

**DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI :** All over the country, there are 2584 LAMPS have been organised and if you want to know the break up, I can give that also.

**SHRI R. P. DAS :** How many of them have fulfilled the objectives enunciated in the Sixth Five Year Plan?

**DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI :** All of them are working on the lines for which they were established. The main objectives was to establish special type of Large-Sized Multi-purpose Cooperative Societies in tribal areas. These were special

type of Large Scale Multi-purpose Societies. They were established in tribal areas and they are entrusted to discharge three-fold function of providing credit (both production and consumption), marketing of tribal produce and distribution of consumer goods and agricultural inputs. So, all these are working there. From time to time, Government evaluate the working of these Societies and whatever the difficulties faced, we try to remove them and we feel that with their proper functioning, good work will be done in this field.

**MR. SPEAKER :** If there are lambs, there must be ramps also.

### **Ethnic Problem of Sri Lanka**

+

\*44. **DR. G. S. RAJHANS :**  
**SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI :**

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether any solution has been found to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka ; and

(b) the details of the discussions held with the representatives of Sri Lanka Government during the last three months?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) :** (a) No Sir. Negotiations to work out a solution to the ethnic problem are still continuing.

(b) The second round of talks at Thimphu was adjourned in mid-August. Thereafter, talks were held between August 23 and 31 with Dr. H. W. Jayewardene and other Sri Lanka officials who had participated in the Thimphu talks. A working paper was prepared by Sri Lanka which could serve as a basis for further negotiations towards a political settlement. A team of three Sri Lankan officials later visited New Delhi and in discussions with senior officials of the Ministry gave some amplification of certain issues which figured in the working paper.

Talks were held with the various Tamil groups in September on matters relating to maintenance of an effective ceasefire and