

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

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\*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

issues in the working paper. The Foreign Secretary later visited Sri Lanka on September 26 and held discussions with President Jayewardene and other leaders on matters relating to maintenance of the ceasefire and setting up of a monitoring Committee to monitor the ceasefire.

Thereafter, further talks were held with the Tamil group in October, and the views of the groups in regard to a political solution were conveyed to the Sri Lanka President and other leaders by the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary during discussions in Nassau. A further round of talks with the Tamil groups was held from November 7-9.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Sir, I am referring to the last portion of the reply of the hon. Minister. May I know the details of the talks held with the Tamil groups between November 7 and 9, 1985, if it is not confidential?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The whole thing is in a process of very delicate negotiations and, therefore, it will not be possible to give the details. But I can broadly say that this related to monitoring the effective ceasefire arrangement. That is the first thing. And secondly, there were some elements of the political settlement regarding provincial Councils, the Northern and the Eastern Councils, the question of linkage demand by Tamil groups, law and order, some more powers regarding maintenance of law and order in these provinces, land settlement and more powers to be entrusted to the political Councils. These were broadly the areas of discussion.

Dr. G. S. RAJHANS : Is the Government aware that Sri Lankan army is annihilating the Tamils without any discrimination, and if so, what do the Government propose to do to meet the problem?

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : Various reports are coming, But it is not a fact that Sri Lankan army is annihilating the Tamilians there. But what is happening is that there are violations of the ceasefire and violations do hurt the civilian population. We have been bringing this to the notice of the Sri Lankan authorities that the civilians should not be affected, because they would

suffer the most. Maintenance of the ceasefire is, of course, the top priority in all these negotiations.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : If I may add to that, there have been violations on both sides and we are terribly distressed by some of the actions that have been taken by the Sri Lankan Security Forces and we have requested them to try and refrain from such actions. On the other side, we have also in the negotiations not got a positive paper from the Tamil boys saying what precisely they want, because without that basis it is difficult for us. We have got a paper from the Sri Lankan Government on what they are willing to give. But the ball is in the court of the boys and they should let us know what they want.

AN HON. MEMBER : Tamilian tigers, not boys... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : All right, Sri Lankan Tamil leaders. I stand corrected .. Are you speaking on behalf of Sri Lankan Tamils?... (*Interruptions*)

Are both of them speaking or is only one of them speaking?

MR. SPEAKER : I think, they are both speaking without any rhyme or reason.

Please take your seats.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The word 'boy' should be used for youth Congress boys only.

MR. SPEAKER : It is for the people who are just in the fray.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : Prof. Dandavate is always correct, and the unfortunate part is that we have youth Congress boys, but they have got no young people with them.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We have young old men.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the efforts made by the Government for solving the ethnic problem

in Sri Lanka are praiseworthy and I congratulate the Prime Minister for that.

MR. SPEAKER : You put your question, do not make a speech.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Sir, I want to know, through you, has an agreement been reached in any way to the effect that the Sri Lanka Government would not use the Armed Forces to suppress the political demands?

MR. SPEAKER : This has already been replied to.

SHRI B. R. BHAGAT : The entire basis of the discussion is that no solution to this problem can be found by suppression through the Armed Forces. Therefore, it should be solved through political negotiations.

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : There is an apprehension in the minds of Tamils in Tamil Nadu and also Sri Lanka that by the time we reach the settlement or accord, actually there will not be any Tamil population in Sri Lanka. I suppose so, because I want to put it thus : in the last 7 or 8 months, talks are going on either in Bhutan or Delhi or somewhere. Our hon. Prime Minister has also assured that he wants to take immediate action on this issue, in order to settle the ethnic problem prevailing in Sri Lanka. Even during his recent visit to foreign countries, our Hon. Prime Minister actually might have met the Minister Shri Athulathmudali or Sri Lanka. I want to know from the Hon. Prime Minister what actually they talked, or whether they are going to settle it immediately, because it is an ethnic problem prevailing for the last so many years. Every day, i.e. day by day, the population of Tamils is diminishing. So, I want the Prime Minister to tell us whether is going to settle it immediately, just like Punjab or Assam.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I may, with your kind permission Sir, bring to the notice of the Member that Sri Lanka is an independent country, and it is not just like Assam or Punjab.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : The Tamil issue is a part and parcel of this country. You have taken it as a national problem. That is what you have said.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I think there is some difference of views on our outlook on the Tamil problem. We treat it entirely as a Sri Lankan problem, and not as an Indian problem. The Indian problem is the refugees that we have got, any violation of human rights, any actions which may be seen to be counter to normal law and order measures. And on those issues, yes, we are involved. We would like to take them up, as we would in any other country if we saw—like we do in South Africa—and feel human rights are being violated, we take them up. So, on these issues, yes; we will look into other countries. But basically it is a problem for Sri Lanka to solve. We will do whatever we can to help them solve it. We would like the refugees that have come from Sri Lanka to go back to Sri Lanka in honour and security.

#### People Below Poverty line

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\*45 SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :  
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) Percentage of people below the poverty line in the country in 1980 ;

(b) Present percentage of people below the poverty line in the country ; and

(c) the steps taken to reduce poverty during the Sixth Plan period and steps proposed to be taken in the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) to (c) : A statement is given below.

#### Statement

(a) and (b) The Poverty estimates worked out by the Planning Commission are based on the results of the Household