

the poorest of the poor of the society, viz. the fishermen community will be highly benefited? If so, what is the number of beneficiaries of this project? Is it a fact that this project will be a foreign-exchange earner? If so, what are the expeditious steps to be taken for the completion of the project; and what would be the expected foreign exchange to be earned through this project?

S. BUTA SINGH : No doubt that area will benefit out of this production. A large number of roads linking various villages around that area will be constructed specially helping poor fishermen who are engaged in the traditional fishing, and also it will help in setting up ice plant, cold storage, also it will improve marketing condition of the area; it will help in providing drinking water in that area and construction of fish curing centre, service centre, construction of fish landing jetty, housing and medical facilities to the local fishermen population. This way, it will go a big step in helping fishermen of that area. As soon as this agreement is signed we will take in all seriousness the implementation of this programme.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : The bane of fishery industry in the country is over exploitation of one species only which is prawn, prawn, prawn. There are projects for developing prawn culture in pens, but, we have, by and large, failed in it. I would be keen to know whether under this project (Norwegian) are we going to evolve some methodology whereby we could succeed in prawn culture, producing prawn in pens?

S. BUTA SINGH : This will be mostly for the traditional fishermen who are very large in number, but they have very poor equipment with them and they have no marketing system. Whatever they get, they bring the same day? they will have to carry it for miles together to a market place. This is for the benefit of the smaller fishermen, and this prawn is also a fish for the traditional fishermen, but most of the prawns, bulk of it comes from deep sea. Therefore, to that extent, it will not go, but simultaneously, we are developing some kind of

culture in the brackish water especially in this area where the prawn could also be produced in tanks, and that scheme is at an advance stage.

DR. V. VENKATESH : In this country, protein is not sufficiently supplied to the common man. The fish is the main source of protein, but, unfortunately in our country, this fishery is not upto the mark and thereby the production of fishery and its product is not sufficient particularly for a developing country like India. What steps the hon. Minister is going to take to see that the fishery which is very much rich in the protein content may be supplied to the common man of this country?

S. BUTA SINGH : Though it does not arise out of this present question, because this question related to only one group in the District Balasore of the State of Orissa. I agree with the hon. member that there is need for providing much balanced diet including fish and milk. We are trying to solve this problem through the agricultural policy; we will spell out how best we are trying to increase the intake of milk and fish in the country.

MR. SREAKER : You want to make us non-vegetarian?

Loans and other facilities for people of Bastar under the IRDP

*288 **SHRI KAMAL+ NATH :**
SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARY :

Will the Minister of **AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state :

(a) whether a special scheme is under preparation for the benefit of extremely poor people of Bastar in Madhya Pradesh to provide them loans and other facilities under the Integrated Rural Development Programme;

(b) if so, the outlines of the new scheme; and

(c) how much time will be taken to finalise the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The poor people of Bastar are already being given loans and other facilities under the IRDP. Under the IRDP, no special scheme has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : The Prime Minister on 15th July when he was in Bastar had said that a special scheme for tribals was being formulated. On the basis of that, I have posed this question. I have with me all the Press cuttings, which also says that the Prime Minister had made a statement in a public meeting; it was not at the Press Conference; it was not a private statement; it was well publicised that the special scheme for tribals especially in Bastar was being formulated. Perhaps the hon. Minister does not know about the Prime Minister's pronouncement because he very categorically says that there is no special scheme and for the other question he says, 'it does not arise'. So, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the Prime Minister's statement, and in the light of what he has come to know from me, will any scheme be formulated?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member is totally misinformed and I do not know what he is reading. He also has either deliberately or inadvertently not even understood the answer which the hon. Minister has given. The hon. Minister very clearly said that "under the IRDP there is no special scheme for Bastar" and he is absolutely correct. Under the IRDP there may be no special scheme. What I have talked about in Bastar was a special plan for Bastar which is being undertaken under the State Plan, by the State Government and that is taking place.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : My question relates to Bastar only. I do not think that the hon. Minister has read my question. It is not that I have misunderstood inadvertently or otherwise, his answer. My question especially relates to Bastar and

if he will read the question again, it says, "whether a special scheme is under preparation for the benefit of extremely poor people of Bastar in Madhya Pradesh to provide them loans and other facilities under the Integrated Rural Development Programme."

What is being publicised in the Press is what the Prime Minister has said that, it is also under the IRDP. If the special scheme excludes IRDP is it that the scheme excludes IRDP, or is it that the scheme takes into account some other facts of development?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (S. BUTA SINGH) : Whatever the hon. Prime Minister has stated will be in addition to IRDP. IRDP will remain the same and it will be pursued vigorously in Bastar.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that this question is not confined to the tribals of Bastar, but to all places where such problems exist. Shri Rajiv's visit to that area has given us and the administration an indication that we have not so far sincere in solving the problems of those areas.

MR. SPEAKER : If one does not work, one will be caught.

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARY : There is an area named Nelghat in my constituency which is as backward as Bastar. There is reservation of two per cent for them in Maharashtra, but they are not able to get even that much. Even the Nationalised Banks have not been sincere to cater to the tribal areas. Therefore, I think, there is need to provide them more facilities under I.R.D.P. The report of the National Rural Development Institute for 1983-84 carries a study and a survey on Integrated Rural Development Programme in Madhya Pradesh where in they have given a number of suggestions stressing the need for reorganisation of facilities there. Therefore, I want to ask a very simple question. Advisers do not know even the amount of the

loan outstanding against them. Sometimes it so happens that they do not get loan when only Rs. 5 to 10 are outstanding against them. Therefore, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether they will be given long term loans under I.R.D.P. even if the earlier loan is not fully repaid. I want to know the opinion of the hon. Minister in this regard.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR : So far as giving loan under R.D.P. is concerned, there are some people who have not been able to cross the poverty line and, as such, it has been decided to give them loans again. The other thing is that the amount of loan which used to be given earlier was very meagre and the people used to find it difficult to cross the poverty line with that amount. Now that amount has been raised to Rs. 6,000 from Rs. 3,000. In deference to the views expressed by you, this amount has been raised from Rs. 3000 to Rs. 6000 and the loan will be given to old beneficiaries too.

[English]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Is it a fact that the Prime Minister recently in his tour of Rajasthan stated that IRDP and NREP are going to be re-cast so as to reach the poorest of the poor and if that is so on what lines are they going to be recast? Or will the Minister come forward with a statement before the end of the session with regard to the intending changes as per the direction of the Prime Minister?

S. BUTA SINGH : A new look is being given to IRDP and NREP. After gaining experience in the implementation of the two programmes in the rural areas, we have added new features in the programmes and they are as follows:— 1. We will attempt a higher investment per family including package of assistance to enable proper return on investment. 2. Supplemental dose of assistance to those families assisted during the Sixth Plan who have not been able to cross the poverty line for no fault of their own. The approach of uniformity has been changed to one of selectivity based on poverty incidence. 4. Identification of beneficiaries must involve the people's re-

presentatives much more closely. 5. Efforts to improve the linkages through identifying bodies at district level for this purpose or the establishment of District Supply and Marketing Centres. 6. Increasing the coverage of women beneficiaries. At the moment, there is no special allocation for the women. We now propose that 30 per cent of the beneficiaries must be women. 7. There should be proper coordination of the training effort through the establishment of composite rural training and technology centres. 8. A high level committee has been appointed to look into the administrative set up. The major set back has come from the lack of very efficient and good administrative set up at the district and block levels. This will be attended to. 9. Improvement in the functioning of banks, particularly at the grass-root level. 10. Creating a better climate of awareness of beneficiaries and their proper organisation through publicity or educative methods. Those are the major point which we are trying to improve upon the implementation of the most vital programmes for the alleviation of poverty in rural areas.

The House is really thankful to the Prime Minister for making this programme much more important by visiting the beneficiaries who have not been touched even by the village level workers.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will he come forward with a statement before the end of the session?

MR. SPEAKER : It is already there. What more do you want? It is in black and white.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : The Minister must definitely be aware that in the course of his tour to the interiors of various States, the Prime Minister had observed that the benefits of IRDP had not reached the people who really most deserved. . .

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : That is not what I have said at any stage.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : I stand corrected.

The Minister must also be aware of a

policy announcement made by the Prime Minister a few days ago that the Members of Parliament and central agencies would be associated in monitoring the implementation of IRDP and other programmes in various States. What steps are you taking in order to give a concrete shape to this policy statement of the Prime Minister? Secondly, in your written statement it is said that a number of studies have been made about the performance of IRDP in various States and not all. I would like to know whether the state of Meghalaya has the poorest and dismal record in the implementation of IRDP. Are you going to constitute a study about it?

SHRICHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR :

Taking the last question first, in fact, the performance in Meghalaya is not so good as we wanted.

The Prime Minister has been meeting the beneficiaries directly and talking to them. Thereby we have also thought that it is the responsibility of all so that a better monitoring system would be there. And we are evolving a very very effective monitoring system.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : In that will you be associating the MPs.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR :

We will be associating various groups.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I would clarify part of that remark.

What I said was that IRDP programme has not been able to give enough benefit to the poorest beneficiaries and this is something which we have learnt from experience. The beneficiaries, who were not the very poor, have received benefit and have been able to rise above the poverty line, but the poorest like the hon. Minister has just said was not able to rise above the poverty line with one doze of the programme; and that is why we have modified the programme to enable the poorest people to rise above the poverty line with just one doze of the programme.

[Translation]

SHRI DALBIR SINGH : Mr Speaker, Sir, the schemes under the N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. are going on in rural areas. Under these programmes, there is a provision to give each labourer one kilo of foodgrains. It is now more than five to six months, that they have not been given foodgrains in Madhya Pradesh. Through you, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister how he is going to remove this mismanagement. My second supplementary is that the foodgrains are also available with the F.C.I. But there is a provision of distribution of foodgrains through LAMPS also. Sometimes, F.C.I. people say that they do not have foodgrains, but even the LAMPS is not doing the distribution properly. Foodgrains have not so far been distributed in the rural areas of Madhya Pradesh under these two programmes. I want to know the time by which you will make the foodgrains available there?

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR :

So far as distribution of foodgrains under R.L.E.G.P. and N.R.E.P. is concerned, the Food Corporation is not to blame. We allot foodgrains directly to the States. Whatever quantity of foodgrains is being allotted to the states under these two programmes, they have to make use of the same. As you have said, it was one kilogram earlier, but now it has been raised to 2 kilograms. Under these two programmes more foodgrains can be supplied to the States if required. Therefore, they will not have any shortage of foodgrains. So far as the question of distribution is concerned, if the hon. Member specifically tells me the name of any village or block where foodgrains have not been given for the last five to six months, I shall certainly look into it and inform you myself. . . . (Interruptions)

Special Facilities to Journalists

*291 **SHRI R.P. SUMAN :** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state : (a) whether Government are considering to provide some special facilities to