

MR. SPEAKER : Is it a pertinent question, Sir ?

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : It is important because there is lack of proper support...

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister will take note of this.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : May I explain, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : No. Mr. Jaipal Reddy.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : May I know whether it is a fact that the senior aids of Ministers and senior officers of the Departments had tried to interfere with the Janvani Programmes which were prepared ; and whether it is also a fact that certain Video Cassettes prepared in the context of Janvani Programmes were erased and reused and if, what are the reasons therefor ?

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : Sir, as far as the first part of the question is concerned, the answer is 'No'.

As far as the second part of the question is concerned, the answer is 'Yes'. In the case of three recordings of Janvani, the tapes were erased. In one case, that of Shri Buta Singh, the alternative was available. However, in two cases, it was erased. The matter is being looked into.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What are the reasons therefor ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is what they are trying to find out. The enquiry will show what were the reasons therefor.

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : I said, I am enquiring into it, I am trying to find out the reasons.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Did they erase them first and then they

are trying to find out the reasons now !

SHRI V.N. GADGIL : I said, I am enquiring.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, sponsored programmes are being telecast by Doordarshan. May I know whether it is proposed to telecast such programmes as could be conducive for the development of national character ?

MR. SPEAKER : Khattiriji, it is not relevant.

[*English*].

I.L.O. Convention Regarding Carrying of Weight by Workers

*368. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have accepted the I.L.O. convention with regard to carrying of not more than 50 Kg. weight by workers (both men/women) ;

(b) if so, whether in a number of States, most of the workers in godowns, at Ferrywharfs and Ports and Docks carry over 100 kg. of weight at a time ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to stop this practice ?

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

Statement

The ILO Convention No. 127 concerning the 'Maximum Permissible Weight to be carried by one worker' was adopted by the International Labour Conference in 1967. The Convention requires regula-

tion of manual transport of loads in all branches of economic activity for which a system of labour inspection is maintained. The Convention lays down only the general principles and does not lay down any maximum permissible weight as such. India has not ratified this Convention so far. The Recommendation No. 128, however, lays down the maximum permissible weight of 55 Kgs. and the Recommendation, being in the nature of a guideline, does not entail ratification. The Tripartite Committee on Conventions in the Ministry of Labour recommended in 1981 the maximum limit of 50 Kgs. This, however, required detailed consultation with the Ministries concerned. At present bags of different sizes are in use. Wheat and rice are being packed by the Food Corporation of India in 95/100 Kg. packing and paddy in 67/70 Kg. packing. Steps were, therefore, taken to explore the possibility of introducing the limit of 50 Kg. weight as recommended by the Committee on Conventions, in a phased manner, in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India. The Department of Food are now contemplating to introduce the 50 Kg. bags with effect from the Rabi Season of 1986-87.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : My first supplementary is with regard to the statutory benefits given to these millions of workers. In every nook and corner, there are these head-load workers who do this work of carrying load ; but there is no law protecting them—for payment of wages, gratuity, bonus or any such benefits. This is a Concurrent Subject. Only a State like Kerala has brought in a law regulating the working of head-load workers, naming it Head-Load Workers Act, wherein some benefits are given.

This is the biggest section of employees in the country which earns something sacrificing even its life—because they carry 100 Kgs. on their heads. It is also a risky one. My question is : this being a Concurrent Subject, will the Central Government formulate a law regulating the service conditions and minimum wages and also for avoiding the risk for these workers in the country ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : Regarding these workers, one of the biggest employer is the Food Corporation of India. There thousands of such workers are working. As the hon. Member says, there is no provision at present under the Minimum Wages Act, and for things like Provident Fund and ESI. Our Department will be examining whether we can bring in a comprehensive legislation on the subject.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : My second supplementary is with regard to health conditions of these people. Will they consider this aspect ? Usually, these people carry this load on their heads, and go up to 20 stacks' by carrying on their head 65 Kgs., in the case of men. They go 20 stacks high and put it on there. Will Government consider supplying forklift, light machines and other technically-advanced equipment for loading and stacking these things in the godown, especially in the Central Government and State Government sectors, and in docks also ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : All these things we are examining—including what is the lift weight. That also we are examining.

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : The Kerala Government has enacted a Legislation called the Head-Load Workers Act. The main feature of that legislation is to give security of employment to the workers. As far as head-load workers are concerned, there is no security or anything else will Government come forward to enact a legislation of that type, which will be applicable to all the States in the country ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : I have already said that we will take this up—throughout this country.

MR. SPEAKER : They will take it into consideration.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : The House is equally concerned—not only with carrying the weight, but also pulling the weight.

Even thirtyeight years after independence, we are seeing glimpses of this slavery in many parts of the country, e.g. in Hyderabad and Madras cities. There, pulling of man by man in rickshaws is allowed. It is nothing but slavery. Is the Government prepared to ban this evil practice, and to rehabilitate these rickshaw-pullers, by financing them through banks, i.e. to buy auto rickshaws to eke out their livelihood ?

MR. SPEAKER : Auto-rickshaws ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : That is a separate question.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : I seek your protection, Sir. It concerns manual labour.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

Implementation of Acts Relating to Abolition of Intermediary Tenures

*369. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the news item published in 'Business Standard' dated 23 June, 1985 that Government has finally admitted that core of the anti-poverty programme (redistributive land reforms) has not made much headway and the bulk of the rural poor remain as they were without any land ;

(b) whether according to the survey made by the department of Rural Development, there are some States which have not fully implemented the Acts relating to abolition of intermediary tenures ; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard ?

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

(b) and (c), No survey has been done by the Department of Rural Development. However, according to the reports received from States/Union Territories, intermediary tenures of devasthan inams in Maharashtra, certain service jagirs in Orissa and comunidades in Goa, Daman & Diu have not yet been abolished and residuary work in the implementation of abolition of intermediary rights remains in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Pondicherry.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : None of the anti-poverty programmes would be successful unless these are integrated with schemes to create income-generating assets for the rural poor. The hon. Minister has answered part (a) of my question. He has admitted that there is not much headway in regard to land-reforms. What are the reasons for this and what was the target in the 6th Plan (State-wise break-up) and the cases of land pending in the courts ? Is the Central Government thinking of appropriate for proper monitoring mechanism for periodical review with some directives and directions to the State Governments in this regard ?

S. BUTA SINGH : First of all, I share the remarks of the hon. member that unless we tackle this basic problem of our rural society, namely, the implementation of land-reforms strictly, no worthwhile progress can be achieved in the implementation of 20-point programme or alleviation of poverty. While inaugurating the Conference of the Revenue Ministers, I made this observation :

"If we look at the agrarian scene, we have to admit that measures of land-reforms taken so far have not given result which was expected to be achieved."

Regarding the target fixed for the 6th Five Year Plan we had hoped that the States which did not have legislative provision for the conferment of ownership