

making the point that for the hill areas and backward areas, more concession should flow, and there also we have been giving. Here instead of centralising, we have to decentralise; instead of amalgamating the ten banks, we have to see that there is decentralisation. Decentralisation is taking place within the banking structure. We have given more powers to the Bank Manager and he can generally grant loans upto Rs. 25,000/-. In this way we are monitoring the functioning of the banks. Not only that, instead of going to the top people, we are going to the customers. The top executives have been asked to go to the customers, and customers' cells have been set up throughout the country. I am grateful to the hon. Member for asking this question. We are making a lot of improvement in the banking sector.

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : He has evaded the most important part of my question. I believe, the executive cannot ensure the functioning of the public sector banks to the extent to which parliamentary control and scrutiny would ensure the health of the system. When all other public undertakings of the Government of India are brought within the purview of the Committee on Public Undertakings for closer look, scrutiny and control, how is it that the banks are kept out of the purview of Parliamentary scrutiny and control ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : As the Hon. House knows the Estimates Committee is looking into it and last year also they had taken up this subject. Not only that, in Parliament also every day in every budget there will be a debate. We are also looking into the functioning. Questions are being asked. The Parliament has decided that we cannot give the details of every day to day functioning. This is the thinking. If the Parliament desires we don't have any objection.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATHI RAJU : I would like to know what is the spread between the deposits of the bank and the interest that they are charging. This seems to be quite substantial. Is the additional amount going to be utilised towards provi-

ding man days employment to the weaker sections in the rural areas? In fact, in Andhra Pradesh very little of banking funds are going into providing of man days employment in the rural areas. Will the Hon. Minister consider this proposal ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : We are providing funds for the purpose of the IRDP loans. In so far as the NREP is concerned, banks have nothing to do with it. The budgetary allocation is there from the Central Government and as the Hon. Member knows, we have increased the allocation. But here the implementation authority is the State Government.

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : The introduction of computers in the foreign banks has increased their efficiency and they are supposed to be 30% more efficient than their Indian counterparts. In view of these facts, I want to know whether the Hon. Minister will introduce computers or if he has begun the process how far it has gone and what are the advantages which he has realised.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : It is true that computerisation is going to help the management to have efficiency. In fact more efforts are being made to computerise. The cooperation of the employees are also sought and the Government is determined to go in this direction.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : The Hon. Minister in his reply has stated about the decentralisation of banking service among the banks. Five regional offices of the State Bank of India are stationed at Gauhati only. I would like to know whether the Government will consider decentralising these regional offices in Jorhat, Cachar and Tezpur instead of keeping in Gauhati only.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I will look into this and write to the Hon. Member.

**Import of edible oil against
export of non-basmati rice**

*388. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to allow import of edible oils by the private traders against the export of non-basmati rice;

(b) if so, the details of the plan;

(c) the quantity of rice proposed to be exported; and

(d) the quantity of edible oil proposed to be imported during 1986-87 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) to (d) Government have not taken any decision to allow import of edible oils by private traders against export of non-basmati rice.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA *rose--*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : How does the supplementary arise ?

MR. SPEAKER : He will make it arise.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : We have to depend on various sources of information, there may be some slight error. I would like to know whether it is not a fact that the Government have in fact issued a notification already permitting export of non-basmati rice and non STC rice by private traders under the Open General Licence—not export of edible oil but export of basmati rice by private traders. I would like to know whether this is being sanctioned. If so, what are the agricultural commodities which they expect to be able to import against these exports.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I find the thrust of the question is import of edible oils by the private traders in lieu of the export of non-basmati rice. In fact the position is that in so far as the export of non-basmati rice is concerned in lieu of there of what will be imported is the edible oil. The idea behind this is that a lot of foreign exchange is being spent on the edible oils. Therefore, the idea behind is to get edible oils in lieu thereof.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, my specific question was whether the export

of non-basmati rice is going to be done by private traders under OGL ? It seems they are going to be permitted or probably they have already started exporting this quality of rice and in exchange for that Government hopes to be able to import edible oil and thereby some savings may be affected in our foreign exchange. I would like to know what are the countries to which these private traders are going to export this rice and whether those are countries from which it is possible to import edible oil in exchange, because prices here are higher than the prices in the international market. Does it mean that at a later stage these private traders may ask for subsidies in order to be able to sell this in those markets ? I would like to know which category of farmers they hope to benefit by this measure and whether they will be giving them subsidy also so that they can enter those markets ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : As regards the export of non-basmati rice this has been allowed from February 1986 through private exporters as well as public sector agencies. On the question of price that the hon. Member referred to I must submit that in today's *Economic Times*—I was just looking into it—the 'permal' rice price in Bombay market is Rs. 320 to Rs. 360 per quintal while the export price has been fixed at Rs. 400 per quintal. Therefore, so far as the export earning is concerned it will be much better as compared to the price that would be running here. No subsidy will be given for the export of rice on this issue.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I had asked specific question about the countries Sir, he is relying on *Economic Times* and I am also relying on *Economic Times*. He should be better informed.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Sir, so far as the names of the countries are concerned they are not available. Perhaps by the end of the supplementaries I will be able to supply.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Is there any prospective Plan to make India self-sufficient in edible oils ? What is the approximate foreign exchange allocated for import of edible oils and what is the cost

ratio benefit to make India self-sufficient in edible oils ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Sir, I have got the information with respect to the countries which had been asked for. The export of rice is to Gulf countries, U.K. and the USSR. The import of oil is mainly from Malaysia.

The hon. Member asked the question as to what is the value of the imports of the edible oils. The edible oils that have been imported during 1986-87 the programme that has been fixed for that would be...

MR. E. AYYAPU REDDY : My question has not been properly understood by the hon. Minister. I would repeat it. What incentives are being given for the production of edible oil this year ? Is there any perspective plan to make India self-sufficient in edible oils ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I would require a separate notice for this. I am concerned only with reference to the question that has been asked and that too on the concept of the export of non-basmati rice in lieu of the edible oil.

SHRI A. CHARLES : The House has been demanding that there should be a total ban on the import of edible oils. The coconut producers are suffering. The Kerala Government has been requesting that coconut be treated as edible oil and distributed through the public distribution system. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will consider the possibility of treating it as edible oil and distributing it through the public distribution system ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I thought, I was dealing with the import and export part of the edible oils. So far as the coconut oil is concerned, that is not imported at all. The question whether it should be treated as an edible oil is a different issue which could be considered.

Increase in foodgrains procurement prices

*389. **PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the latest increase in the procurement prices of foodgrains like wheat and rice announced by the Government;

(b) what are the corresponding increases in the issue prices of the same commodities;

(c) whether the increase in the issue prices is disproportionate to the increase in procurement prices; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) It has been decided to increase the procurement price of wheat from Rs. 157 to Rs. 162 per quintal. In the case of paddy, for common variety the procurement price has been increased from Rs. 137 to Rs. 142 per quintal. Similar increases have been allowed for the fine and superfine varieties. In the case of wheat, the increase is effective from 1.4.1986 and in the case of paddy from 1.10.1985.

(b) The central issue price of wheat has been increased from Rs. 172 to Rs. 190 per quintal. In the case of common variety of rice, it has been increased from Rs. 217 to Rs. 231 per quintal with corresponding increases for fine and superfine varieties.

(c) and (d) With the increase in the procurement prices, there are in-built ad-valorem increase of diverse charges like mandi charges, interest charges etc. which cannot keep up the proportion even if the same amount is increased in the issue prices.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, it is very clear from the reply that has been read out by the Minister that he has clearly admitted the disparity between the increases in the procurement prices of wheat and rice on the one hand and the increases in the issue price of the same commodities on the other.

Let me tell you, Sir, that our Government is following a strange agricultural economics.... (*Interruptions*). On the one side, the kisans do not feel that they