

why it was not possible. So far as the policy matter is concerned, it has to be a topic of national importance; and this is the practice followed since television came into being.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: You have heard the reply. You see the difference. Here he speaks something else completely; he says that since there is no effective or strong enough microwave link between Cuttack and Puri, it could not be possible. So, this is the difference. Now, I would urge upon the Minister through you to let us know whether necessary microwave link, strong enough, effective enough, will be established between the two places to bring it to the live TV coverage next year because of the national importance of the Puri Car Festival. As you know, about a million strong crowd gather there every year belonging to all religions, castes and creed; even foreigners are there. It is a national festival which strengthens the national solidarity and integrity which is needed most. Can I request and can I ask the hon. Minister through you that in view of this, whatever he had stated in the past, he should now cover up the lapses and try to bring in effective microwave link between the two places and also see that live TV coverage of the Puri Car Festival is there next year?

SHRI A.K. PANJA: So far this Car Festival is concerned, it was in fact shown though not in the live telecast-for full one hour from Cuttack station on the 20th June, the date of the festival at 9.50 P.M. Next, in the National Programme for 30 minutes it was shown on the 20th June 1987 from 10-25 P.M. Therefore, it is not a question of its not being shown. About live telecast at this moment I cannot give any assurance.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: When foot-ball matches are shown in the live telecast, why not this Car Festival? And he had assured it also earlier. Will he reconsider the matter?

SHRI C. SAMBU: Delhi Doordarshan has introduced the telecasting of 'A' certificate films at midnight every Friday. But they

are not giving much enjoyment to the public. I would like to request the hon. Minister that some interesting movies may be shown in the midnight transmission.

MR. SPEAKER: It is irrelevant.

SHRI A.K. PANJA: That is not relevant to this question.

Coverage of Crop Insurance for all Agriculturists

*188. **SHRI S.G. GHOLAP:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme is at present limited to farmers availing of crop loans from Corporation institutions; Commercial banks and Regional rural banks;

(b) if so, the reasons for such limited scope; and

(c) the reasons for which its benefit is not given to those agriculturists who belong to scarcity hit areas declared by State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Inclusion of non-loanee farmers would involve creation and deployment of an elaborate administrative machinery for collection of premium, assessment of yield, scrutiny of yield data, payment of claims, etc.

(c) Loanee farmers growing insured crops in areas notified by the State Governments under the crop insurance scheme are getting the benefit of the scheme in case of natural calamity of the basis of crop yield data.

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: It is mentioned in the reply that the benefit of the scheme is

given the basis of crop yield data. But the scarcity declared by the State Governments is also based on the crop yield. If it is less than 50 per cent, the area is declared by the State Government as scarcity area. The villages which are declared as scarcity areas are not getting this benefit. And again this special crop yield data is taken. Why not that criterion of the State Government be accepted?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: It is for the particular State Government to notify the areas which should be covered under the crop insurance scheme. It is left to the State Governments.

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: The question is that where the farmers are affected by scarcity conditions, they are not getting the benefit. The State Government does not accept this criterion.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is accepted.

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: it is not accepted.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: There is a criterion of crop cutting experiment. And this is arrived at by the State Governments, agricultural scientists, etc. and we accept it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister, has just given the information in the House about the Crop Insurance Scheme. It may be pointed out in this context that drought situation is persisting in Rajasthan for the last 5-6 years and due to non-existence of Crop Insurance Scheme there, the condition of the farmers is deteriorating day by day. Keeping in view the above situation, will the Hon. Minister issue directions to the State Government of Rajasthan to enforce Crop Insurance Scheme in all the areas facing drought conditions and pay compensation to the farmers to make good their losses so that they are economically better off and can make their both ends meet?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: We have asked all the State Governments to implement Crop Insurance scheme in their respective States. We will introduce the Scheme in that State which accepts it. We had requested the State Government of Rajasthan also to accept it but perhaps the State Government of Rajasthan has not accepted the scheme.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: No, please tell us whether the Crop Insurance Scheme will be introduced in Rajasthan keeping in view the drought situation prevailing in the State? It does not matter whether the Government of Rajasthan has been asked to introduce the scheme or not. The farmers of that State have suffered a lot.

[*English*]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: It is for the State Government to notify.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: The plight of the farmers in Rajasthan is continuously deteriorating but the Crop Insurance Scheme has not been introduced in the State by the Government of India due to which the farmers are not getting any assistance and their economic condition is worsening.

[*English*]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: The Rajasthan Government has accepted the Crop Insurance Scheme and it has implemented in certain areas. It is for the State Government to notify the other areas. There are State Governments like Punjab and Haryana, who have not accepted. It is left to the individual State Government and not for the Government of India.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: As you know that because of the growth of man made fibres, the cotton production is very dicey. Under Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme, cotton has not been included. May I ask a

specific question, why it has not been included? What is the criterion for including various agricultural produce? Will it be considered for inclusion under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, this is a new Scheme—a pilot scheme—we started in 1985 and we are reviewing it from year to year. Now, a Committee has been appointed under the chairmanship of an Additional Secretary in the Agriculture Ministry to review the Scheme and to extend to other areas. A number of suggestions were made by the State Governments and Member of Parliaments for the inclusion of certain crops. At present, cotton is not included. The items like rice, wheat, millets are now included. In future, the Scheme can be extended to other crops also.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: But what is the policy regarding priority of including a particular crop under insurance scheme?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: The criterion is the administrative structure. Whether it will be possible to administer, will depend upon the administrative structure, etc.

Consumer Price Index

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

(a) whether Government propose to compute the Consumer Price Index (CPI) on the basis of actual availability of supplies at the fair price shops;

(b) the reasons for dropping the old method of computing on the basis of their admissibility; and

(c) whether this new method has been well received by Trade Unions; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The computation of Consumer Price Index proposed for computing Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers with 1982 as the base year on the basis of "availability" as against "admissibility" will be an improvement over the existing methodology, inasmuch as it would be closer to the actual consumption pattern.

(c) This is under discussion with Trade Unions both at the regional and at the national levels.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Sir, about fifty million workers are seriously affected on account of the new revision of the Consumer Price Index now, taking 1982 as a base year. Taking 1960 as a base year, in 1977 on the basis of representations from workers, the Rath Commission was appointed and they found that seven points were lost for the workers. Now, taking 1982 as a base year, another Commission was appointed under Dr. Seal. On the basis of this Commission's recommendation, what has happened, my Lord, is that twenty two points were lost on the Consumer Price Index. This means, the total loss for the workers in this country is about Rs. 175 crores on DA item alone. I would like to know why Government has done it in this manner. Will Government revise it.....

AN HON. MEMBER: This is not the Court. Are you in the Court?

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Sir, 'my Lord' also suits you. Presently the Government has taken into account mainly Taxi, TV and other items, to which weightage has been given. I would like to ask whether the Government will reconsider the matter and appoint a Committee where proper representation is given to the workers, industrialists and other persons on the revised present Consumer Price Index.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: It is not a fact that millions of workers have already been affected as a result of the new series because the new series has not been introduced. So the question does not arise at all.