

ment to the resolution. That has first to be disposed of. The hon. Member Shri P. R. Chakraverti who moved the amendment is not present just now. So, I shall have to put the amendment to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

Mr. Speaker. Now, has Shri A. K. Gopalan the leave of the House to withdraw his resolution?

Shri Ram Sewak Yadav (Bara Banki): No.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member Shri Ram Sewak Yadav wanted three hours to be allotted for this resolution, but when the time came for him to speak, he had gone out of the House.

Shri Ram Sewak Yadav: When I came in, I found that the Minister had already been called.

Mr. Speaker: I looked at the hon. Member's seat, but he was not present. He wanted three hours for the discussion of this resolution, but was not present here even to speak for ten minutes.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

17:44 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: FORMATION OF NUCLEUS CO-OPERATIVE FARMING SOCIETIES

Shri Inder J. Malhotra (Jammu and Kashmir): I beg to move:

"In order to create a co-operative tempo and achieve the target of the service cooperatives in all parts of the country, this House calls upon the Government to take immediate steps to organise at least one nucleus co-operative

farming society in every State and Union Territory of the Indian Union and to mobilise more vigorously all resources and public relations channels available in the country."

While moving this resolution, at the very beginning I would like to say that since we have set the goal of socialistic pattern of society before ourselves, to be achieved in this country, the co-operative movement, as a whole, has to play a very important role. More especially, in a country like India which is predominantly an agricultural country, co-operative farming has to play still a more important role.

Co-operative farming was the goal set before Government when the Congress passed a Resolution at its Nagpur session regarding the introduction of co-operative farming in this country. The real spirit of that resolution was to create a high-pitched tempo in the country to bring about the required revolution in agricultural development through co-operative farming. With regret I have to say that as far as Government are concerned, they have probably not realised or recognised the importance of the spirit of that resolution and have not taken adequate steps to create that kind of tempo for implementation of co-operative farming in the country.

As I said in the beginning, much needs to be done as far as agricultural development is concerned in this country. Many of us think that co-operative farming can be the solution and answer to various kinds of difficulties and bottlenecks in the way of agricultural development faced by the Indian farmer. The biggest difficulty and bottleneck facing the Indian farmer is the existence of uneconomic holdings and less consolidated farms. Except through co-operative farming societies, I do not see any solution by which uneconomic holdings can be abolished and consolidated bigger holdings created in the country.

[Shri Inder J. Malhotra]

It has been emphasised by Government time and again that co-operative farming societies are to be created voluntarily by farmers. We have seen in the last few years after Government undertook to implement the Nagpur resolution of the Congress, that nothing much of significance has been done in this respect.

From co-operative farming, Government moved to the creation of service co-operatives as a first step. It has been stated in various reports brought out, especially by the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, that much has been done as far as service co-operatives are concerned. But it is my personal observation that even today, a very large number of Indian farmers do not understand the meaning of 'service co-operatives', what to say of co-operative farming.

Before we go to the implementation of co-operative farming I would make an appeal to Government. If after careful consideration and observation they feel that there are difficulties and bottlenecks in the way of the implementation of the Nagpur resolution, let them be bold enough to say that at this juncture they are not in a position to fully mould the Indian farmer for the creation of co-operative farming societies in the country. Of late, question of co-operative farming has become like a football. It is being kicked between the Swatantra theory and Government's ideas. On the one side, the Swatantra Party opposes the implementation of co-operative farming tooth and nail. They come forward and say that it is against the basic rights of the individual in the country. When it is said that efforts are being made and when Government says that these co-operative farming societies are to be formed voluntarily I would like to know whether any kind of survey is made through any agency of public relations and communications. There are so many agencies at the disposal of the Government. Have the views and opinions

of the Indian farmer been ascertained on this point? Are they prepared to voluntarily join in the co-operative farming societies? When I bring forward this point, I do not mean to convey that cooperative farming cannot succeed in this country. But I want to say that half-hearted efforts which are being made by the Government are bringing a very bad name to the very case of implementation of co-operative farming in this country.

While moving this Resolution, I mentioned about the creation of a nucleus of cooperative farming societies in every State and Union Territories. It is another thing just to create cooperative farming Societies on paper. In the report it may be said that in certain districts some cooperative farming Societies had been created over the last few years. I mean to emphasise the creation of societies in a particular village by the participation of the farmers who voluntarily join to form a society. By donating 200 acres of barren land and asking 10 or 20 families to form a society is another thing. When the Government tells us that so many societies have been created, I think they belong to the latter category. Unless and until effort is made by the Government to select a particular village and to mobilise public opinion in favour of co-operative and farmers voluntarily join them and to run such a society successfully with technical supervisory and other help including financial assistance, there would not be any public opinion in favour of such societies. If that is done in some States, the other farmers would form an opinion in favour of voluntarily joining the co-operative farming societies.

During the last four or five years I am afraid co-operative farming is taking shape only in academic discussions. Seminars and conferences are

held by the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation. There are reports which may run to 50 or 100 pages which are printed and distributed. But there is no tempo at all in the rural community. Why is it so? Because Government has not made the right approach towards the question of co-operative farming. More detailed information covering all aspects of co-operative farming may be brought about in the shape of pamphlets or other communications media may be utilised by the Government at least to reach the Indian farmer and to let him know the benefits which he may derive by going towards co-operative farming.

As far as the question of service co-operatives is concerned, as I said in the very beginning, this matter is being handled mainly by the Block Development Officers. There can be so many types of service co-operatives. In my opinion, any kind of assistance or service required by the Indian farmer can take the shape of a service co-operative. For example, the supply of seeds, fertilisers, and offer of financial assistance and so many other things required by the farmer can take the shape of service co-operatives.

Now, what happened when the Government became so enthusiastic and said that within a year or so a certain number of service co-operative would be created in this country? In their enthusiasm to achieve that target which is on paper, the existing co-operative financial credit societies were given a new name of service co-operatives. Again, the real purpose and spirit of the creation of service-co-operatives in this country was sabotaged by this effort of the Government. Unless and until efficient, well-managed and clean service co-operatives are created in this country, I am afraid that the Indian farmer ultimately, by seeing all these things done by the Government, by seeing such things, namely, in the morning the society is named as credit co-operative society and in the

evening it becomes a service co-operative society,—

Shri Warior (Trichur): Multi-purpose also!

Shri Inder J. Malhotra: Yes; so, I am afraid that the Indian farmer ultimately is going to lose faith even in the word of 'co-operation'. As I said in the beginning, even to achieve the very desired goal of self-sufficiency in food in this country, I am afraid all the efforts of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture have failed except the PL 480 programme. I do not know how long we are going to depend upon programmes like the PL 480. I would appeal to the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation that it is high time we recognised the importance of implementing fully co-operative farming in this country. The time has now come when these two Ministries should divert their attention from PL 480 programme, from extension service aid from the Ford Foundation, etc., to the Indian farmer and to the real spirit of co-operative farming.

With these words, I put forward my Resolution before the House for its consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Resolution moved:

"In order to create a co-operative tempo and achieve the target of the service co-operatives in all parts of the country, this House calls upon the Government to take immediate steps to organise at least one nucleus co-operative farming society in every State and Union Territory of the Indian Union and to mobilise more vigorously all resources and public relations channels available in the country."

Shri Warior: I may be allowed to support this Resolution, but I hope that the discussion will be continued on the next day.

Mr. Speaker: That is another matter. He should continue now.

Shri Warier: Then I will continue now. The experience that we have gained by this time as far as the service co-operatives are concerned,—

Mr. Speaker: He can give his experiences next time when he may continue his speech. The House will now proceed to the next item—half-an-hour discussion.

18 hrs.

***VERIFICATION OF CHARACTER
AND ANTECEDENTS OF GOV-
ERNMENT EMPLOYEES**

The Minister of Home Affairs (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): Before Shri Gopalan speaks, I would like to correct what I have said before. The other day on 1st May 1962 I said that police verification is generally done after the appointment. I want to make it clear that verification of character and antecedents of the candidate selected for appointment is done generally prior to the offer of appointment, though in exceptional cases, where the appointments are on a short-term basis and have to be made without any delay, the verification is undertaken immediately after the appointment is made. So, I want to make this correction to what I had said before so that he might know the correct position.

Shri A. K. Gopalan (Kasergod): I request the Home Minister to consider this aspect of the question, because in Kerala Assembly as well as in the West Bengal Assembly, there had been discussions about police verification by which there is denial of employment to some category of Government servants. Before that I want to point out the code of conduct that has been accepted in the first meeting of the National Integration Committee here. There is an item No. 6 in which it is agreed that political power at any level should not be used for furthering the personal interest of members of one's own party or harming the interest of the members of the other

parties. The parties which took part in that conference have accepted that code of conduct. On the basis of that also, it is necessary today that the G.O. that is already there saying that there must be verification of antecedents and character should be looked into. How it is worked in the States today must be looked into and power must be given to an autonomous body like the Public Service Commission to go into the question of character and antecedents and see that there is absolutely nothing as far as political parties or organisations are concerned.

After my question was answered here, the Prime Minister, in the course of his reply in the other House to the debate on the President's Address, said:

"One hon. Member raised the question of police verification of persons joining Government service. I do not exactly know what he was referring to. But I gather there is no police verification of that type. Some kind of verification takes place, which is an old practice, not about political opinions, but about other matters. We are trying to put an end to this. Of course, if there is some patent factor against the person, it is a different matter; but not for political reasons."

This is what the Prime Minister said in the Rajya Sabha the other day. But the Home Minister of Kerala and the Chief Minister, replying to this question in the Kerala Assembly have definitely said that this is an all-India pattern and they are following this pattern of police verification. They have given figures saying, so many persons were denied Government employment. As far as the Prime Minister is concerned, he has said, "We do not know; it is not political opinion; it is some other thing."

I have got certain examples. So far as character and antecedents are concerned, if things like whether he is a bad man, a rogue, thief or of bad

*Half an hour discussion.