

the hon. Minister should do something solid for them.

MR. SPEAKER : You put the question.

SHRI V. TULSIRMA : I would like to know whether Government would take some constructive steps to ensure that once released, the bonded labourers are not forced to become bonded labourers again? Is there any scheme before the Government in this regard? No attention is paid to them after they are released. It does come in the records that so many bonded labourers have been released, but they are forced to lead the life of a bonded labourers again.

[*English*]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : It is not a fact that Central Government has not done anything. I have repeatedly made a statement that the National Sample Survey Organisation which is under Planning Commission has estimated the number of bonded labour.

On the basis of that, State Government are identifying the bonded labour and identification is a continuous process. In fact, the hon. Member comes from Andhra Pradesh and I am sorry to say that a number of bonded labourers identified have not been fully rehabilitated by the State Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of bonded labour is very serious indeed. As the Central Government has left the work of identification of bonded labour to the State Governments, I want to tell you about my own district Mirzapur which is a backward and Adivasi area. An assurance was given to rehabilitate all the identified bonded labour, but if it is proved that even 25 per cent of them are bonded labourers, I am prepared to resign. What the State Government machinery is doing is that the servants of some big people the shepherds and other such people are collected and forcibly given money, 50 per cent of which is pocketed by the officials themselves. There is no

question of any shame. I would like the hon. Minister to get a survey conducted in Dugadhi tehsil of Mirzapur district and let us know the actual figure of the bonded labour released there. As a target has been fixed under the 20 Point Programme and the Government has announced to give first prize to the State that shows the best results, a sort of competition has started throughout the State between the D.M. and the Labour Department and they are sending concocted figures and, in fact, in stead of giving assistance to the bonded labour, they are obliging the big people. For instance, you can get a survey conducted in our Dugadhi tehsil to find out how many persons were given assistance there, when this assistance was given and how many of them were actually bonded labourers. Will the hon. Minister give assurance in the House for conducting such a sample survey?

[*English*]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I think it is a submission and not a question at all. (*Interruptions*) If the hon. Member has got any specific case of misuse of that money where the State Government has, instead of giving the money to the bonded labours, given it to somebody else, as he has alleged, he may give me the details. I will look into it.

Encouragement to Palm Cultivation

* 460. SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to encourage palm cultivation in the country ; and

(b) the programme envisaged and the area surveyed therefor .

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The following steps have been taken to encourage oil-palm cultivation.

(i) Oil palm plantations have been taken up in Kerala and Andaman &

Nicobar Islands with the assistance of Government of India.

(ii) Research has been organised on various aspects of oil palm cultivation by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

(b) A Working Group has been set up to identify areas suited for oil palm cultivation.

SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK : Sir, it is a very important subject. But the answer given by the hon. Minister is not satisfactory. The Government is spending huge amount of money on import of oils from other countries, but the steps taken by the Government are not satisfactory. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is sincerely serious about the Palm cultivation in the country and if so what is the new thinking of the Government. Are you going to encourage the private cultivators by giving incentives ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The Government is very serious on this subject because oil palm contains more oil and per-hectare, it gives an yield of 4-5 tonnes of oil whereas the other annual crop gives only one tonne per hectare. So, we are very serious about it. It will save our foreign exchange. That is the reason why it is promoted in the State of Kerala and in Andaman & Nicobar also. A Working Group has also been appointed to identify the areas suitable for oil palm cultivation.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : What about Andhra Pradesh ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : In Andhra Pradesh also, we have identified some areas. We are identifying the areas, because it requires a certain climatic conditions and the soil should be suited to it. So far as the private individuals who want to undertake the plantation is concerned, I will examine the matter.

SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK : I am happy to know that the hon. Minister has appointed a Working Group in this connection. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Government is insisting upon the Working Group to get the report early.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Whenever the Government appoints the Working Group, the intention is to get the report as early as possible.

(Interruptions)

So, it goes without saying that we want to get it as early as possible. They have identified some areas in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. But they are still to do so in other States.

SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI : So far as finding out the new areas is concerned, the Working Group will look into it. But I would like to know categorically whether any action plan has been prepared for Andaman & Nicobar and Kerala where it is found suitable and if so, any seed nursery has been started. I would also like to know as to what other plans have been taken up, as pilot projects, to develop oil palm cultivation.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The main constraint in Andaman & Nicobar is about the forest land. After the enactment of the Forest Conservation Act, 1982, it is difficult to cut the trees and to plant oil palm there. So, this is the difficulty so far as Andaman & Nicobar is concerned. So far as Kerala is concerned, it is working very well. We have created a Joint Undertaking—Oil Palm India Limited where the Government of India is holding 49 per cent shares and the State Government is holding 51 per cent shares. At present, the land under cultivation in Kerala is 3705 hectares and Andaman & Nicobar it is 1593. The total comes to 5298 hectares.

So far as nursery is concerned, under the Mission Oriented Oil Seed Development project, a seed garden has been envisaged. We are putting up modern machinery for processing of palm oil also.

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : In Tamil Nadu palm cultivation is a major agricultural operation in many of the districts. I want to know whether the southern districts of Tamil Nadu where palm trees are grown in abundance are included in the identified areas as mentioned in the answer to part (b) of the Question.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : We have not yet received the report, but they have identified certain areas in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, etc.

**Registration of Recruiting Agencies
sending Indian Labour Abroad**

*461. **DR. G. S. RAJHANS† :**

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of recruiting agencies engaged in sending Indian labour abroad and found indulging in malpractices, whose registration has been cancelled/suspended during 1986 ; and

(b) the steps taken to watch the activities of such agencies so as not to allow them to indulge in the malpractices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Registration Certificates of 8 Recruiting Agencies have been cancelled and suspended in respect of 20 during 1986.

(b) Several steps have been taken like suspension/cancellation of Registration Certificates, confiscation of Bank Guarantees, inspection of offices of Recruiting Agents and prosecution for cheating and fraud. Publicity campaign has been strengthened to educate the emigrants Redressal of grievances of workers has also created a deterrent effect.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether in the interest of public it is possible to publicise the names of those agencies whose certificates have either been cancelled or been suspended and also whether Government will ensure that the persons behind these agencies do not start the business again in the name of some other agencies.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : Yes, Sir, we can do it. We can release the list, but it is for the press whether they will publish it or not. But I can certainly release it.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Why not publish it in the form of an advertisement ?

What is the difficulty ? My second question is whether it is possible to do away with recruiting agencies and take up recruitment by the Government entirely.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : The House has quite often expressed its desire that the manpower export should be totally channelled through Government Corporations. While it is not a hundred per cent possible, we have been trying to encourage the State Government Manpower Corporations which we have got about eight now ; and whenever we are getting some orders now from Government to Government, we have always been passing on those orders to the State Corporations.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : In Bombay and Delhi---usually in Delhi---I have seen that in the last five years some two or three lakhs of people have been sent as labour outside. All these poor labourers from U.P. and Bihar, who are illiterate and who put their thumb impressions, are really made the scapegoats. Those people sell their property and everything and give money ; and every day those poor people are asked to bring more and more money. Thus lakhs of poor people are exploited. In Delhi I have received three or four complaints ; I will give the names to you. The labour is kept by the construction people and they are assured that they will be sent outside and they are employed for just Rs. 2 per day. We have received these complaints from Delhi. Lakhs of people are exploited by these agencies. In Bombay about 13 to 15 people were arrested and some cases are going on, but the money of those poor people has not yet been recovered. Therefore, it is high time that Government took some action because there is unemployment and these illiterate people are exploited. It should be channelised through Government. Or, why not have some legislation from the Centre in which there could be some regulation for severe punishment and implement it strictly ? This is the need of this country. Otherwise, things will go on like this and poor people will be exploited.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : I do not know whether there is any specific question...

DR. DATTA SAMANT : There is a very specific question.