

Allocation of Funds for Rural Development

*224. †SHRI H.B. PATIL :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether economists, planners, social scientists, administrators and voluntary agencies engaged in rural upliftment have suggested more investment in the rural sector and emphasized that it should be, as far as possible, oriented to generate employment and income on a substantial basis ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make some changes in the present system of allocation of funds for the National Rural Employment Programme and RLEGP and allocate it to districts to distribute among the various Panchayats on basis of selected criteria like population, etc. ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. In the National Seminar on Poverty Alleviation held in February, 1988, various suggestions have been made for strengthening the poverty alleviation programmes including a suggestion to the effect that more investment need be made in these programme.

(b) and (c). No such decision has been taken by the Government.

[English]

SHRI H.B. PATIL : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister which are those various suggestions made by that Seminar ?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, the seminar emphasised the need to strengthen poverty alleviation programmes for the upliftment of people living below the poverty line. Funds earmarked for this purpose should be used properly and people should get the maximum benefit out of these programmes. All these points were discussed in detail.

[English]

SHRI H.B. PATIL : I would like to

know whether the Government is prepared to accept those various suggestions and if so when those suggestions are going to be implemented ?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, the suggestions were very valuable. These programmes have already been implemented. The Government has already spent a lot of money on these schemes. Sir, if you allow and if hon. Member desires to know the amount spent on each scheme I can provide that information.

MR. SPEAKER : The information may be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATHI RAJU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stressed on the expenditure of money on the projects which have been used for poverty alleviation programmes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any approach has been made not only to increase assets in the rural areas but also to increase income and the distribution of these incomes in the rural areas so that there is better and equitable distribution. What are the steps taken in that regard ? That is more important than just spending absolute sums of money.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : In India 4.5 crores families are living below the poverty line. Their annual income is less than Rs. 6,400 per annum. In the Seventh Five Year Plan the Centre made a programme for the upliftment of 2 crore families living below the poverty line. In the just three years of the plan 1.10 crore families were provided assistance. In the remaining two years the Government wants to assist the rest of the families below the poverty line. Previously the income limit for classifying people living below the poverty line was Rs. 4800 per annum. Now this limit has been increased to Rs. 6400 per annum keeping in view the inflation, so that their lot could be improved accordingly. There are many programmes for this purpose. Such families are provided bank loans and other facilities so that they could be benefited. The Centre helps the States in the eradication

of poverty.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : May I know whether the Government has sought people's approval for its poverty alleviation programmes or are these programmes being implemented through contractors without any answerability towards the public? Can the hon. Minister cite an instance where these programmes are being implemented with mass support?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Member has asked whether public opinion is considered in the implementation of schemes. No programme is introduced contrary to the wishes and needs of the people. Several schemes are in force for the betterment of people. The entire expenditure on the R.L.E.G.P. is incurred by the Central Government whereas expenditure on N.R.E.P. is shared equally by the Central and State Governments. The type of schemes to be introduced in a State are decided in consultation with the concerned State Governments. If a State Government fails to implement a programme properly, the Centre directs the State to remove the deficiencies. If any hon. Member knows of any particular place in the country where implementation is done against the people's wishes, the Centre may be informed in writing. We will definitely take action against it.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker Sir, part (a) of the question says—

[English]

“Oriented to generate employment and income on a substantial basis—”

[Translation]

May I know how many persons have got employment through these programmes, and how much has their earnings increased? I also want to know how much money has been invested for agricultural development in the rural sector? What concrete programme does the Government have to generate employment through open tubewells, minor and lift irrigation schemes?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have a long list with me. As I said the Centre has many programmes. I shall give

the statistics on expenditure incurred and employment generated through N.R.E.P. from 1985-86 onwards. In 1985-86 Rs. 669 crores were earmarked for this scheme out of which Rs. 531.95 crores were spent. Out of the targetted 22.80 crore mandays, 31.64 crore mandays were generated which is 138.78% of the target.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Under what schemes?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : N.R.E.P.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Let us have it on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : I am giving the statistics because the hon. Member has asked for them. I have no objection in laying the information on the Table of the House.

[English]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I am more interested on the agricultural side.

[Translation]

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : How much work has been done?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : That is what I am telling. In 1985-86 Rs. 694 crores was earmarked for R.L.E.G.P. out of which Rs. 454 crores were spent. Out of a targetted 20.57 crore mandays, 24.15 crore mandays were generated which is 120% of the target.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : All this is on paper only.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : That could be the case in the hon. Member's State but not here. In 1987-88 Rs. 640 crores were spent under this scheme. Out of a targetted 24.26 crore mandays, 30.00 crore mandays were generated which is 112% of the target. Similarly, on the agricultural side there is a programme to instal tubewells. There are separate schemes for small and marginal farmers.... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : Mr. Speaker Sir, there should be a

half-an-hour discussion on this subject.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : I have already said this in my answer to the question on floods. I have no objection to a discussion if more details are needed. You can have a full-fledged discussion whenever you want.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER :

Shri C. Sambu — Not present

Shri Manik Reddy — Not present

Shri D.B. Patil — Not present

[Translation]

Dates for University Examinations

*227. **SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH :** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the regular dates usually fixed for graduate and post-graduate examinations in Indian Universities ;

(b) the names of the Universities along-with the examinations where the examinations have been delayed for more than one year ;

(c) the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken for eliminating delay in holding the examinations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L.P. SHAHI) : (a) The final examinations for the award of graduate and post graduate degrees are generally held by the universities between March and May every year. However, in the case of universities which follow the semester system, the examinations are held at the end of the relevant semester.

(b) and (c). The names of universities and the particulars of their examinations due in 1986 and/or in 1987 which were delayed by more than one year are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The Central Advisory Board of

Education at its meeting held in March 1988, had recommended that within each State, an academic Calendar indicating the dates of admission, dates of the commencement of the Session, vacation, dates of examinations and announcements of the results, should be framed and strictly adhered to by the universities and colleges. A conference of Education Secretaries held in June, 1988, reiterated the above recommendation and urged all the State Governments to take action for its implementation. The Ministry of Human Resource Development will monitor this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given by the hon. Minister with regard to delay in holding examinations in Indian Universities is nothing but the recommendation of the Central Advisory Board of Education which it made in the year 1968 and it has also been reiterated in the Education Secretaries' Conference. The hon. Minister did not say anything about the issues that were raised in that connection nor he mentioned about the steps taken to solve the problems ? The hon. Minister has not given the names of the universities where examinations have been delayed. But I know some of the universities, for instance, the universities in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Particularly, examinations in Ranchi and Magadh universities in Bihar are held very late.. The delay is not for a shorter period, but for 3 long years. Law examinations have been delayed by 5 years. Thus, due to lack of uniformity in the examination system in Indian Universities, students of those States who pass the examination comparatively late, cannot take admission in the universities of other States. Three years time is wasted. What is the number of such students and what steps is the Government taking in this direction ?

SHRI L.P. SHAHI : Sir, we have got information on certain universities. There are 138 universities and 21 deemed universities in this country. Their total number comes to 159. Once the University Grants Commission tried to have information in this regard from all the universities. They have written to the universities but collecting figures from all the universities will take time. The information so far available is not adequate. But it is true that examina-