

[Translation]

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that substantial amounts have been earmarked for the welfare schemes and in this connection, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to why Harijans in Madhya Pradesh, particularly in the district of Morena, have practically gained nothing even after 40 years of independence and there has been no progress there at all?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not prepared to accept the contention that Harijans have made no progress. They have made progress but more needs to be done in this area and that is why we have different programmes. In all our programmes, whether it is the Harijan component plan in which the Centre grants special assistance or the poverty alleviation programmes, 30 per cent of the funds are earmarked for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

So far as the percentage of illiteracy and promotion of education is concerned, it varies from place to place.

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the three development blocks namely, Karhal, Vijaypur and Paharganj in my constituency of Morena are all tribal areas. In this connection, I want to know whether a Central study team will be sent there for conducting a survey of those areas? If I am proved wrong, then I will become guilty in your eyes.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the programmes for the Scheduled Tribes are concerned, wherever the tribal population is dominant, the State Governments form tribal blocks and formulate programmes for their welfare. Where the *Adivasi* population is scattered, there are separate programmes for them.

In regard to what the hon. Member has stated about the implementation and non-implementation of programmes in his constituency, if he gives it in writing, I will find out the facts as block-wise information is not available with me at present.

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA: Is the Welfare Department of the Central Government aware that the amount sanctioned by your Department as stipend and loan to the students studying in schools and colleges in Bihar is not distributed properly and the officials responsible for its distribution indulge in corrupt practices and the funds do not reach the students even though large amounts are sanctioned for this purpose? Have such complaints been ever received by the hon. Minister, and if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

Again, there are hostels in colleges. In many places where hostels are not there, the Department of Welfare grants certain amounts as a loan or rent to the officials of the concerned schools and colleges but the students are deprived of this benefit. Has any such complaint been received by the hon. Minister?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question was about Madhya Pradesh. Now if the hon. Member wants to ask a question about Bihar, he should give a separate notice for it.

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA: I have written to the hon. Minister 2 or 3 times but no action has been taken so far.

[English]

Loans to Fishing Industry

*146. **SHRI D.P. JADEJA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to give financial assistance to the fishing industry;

(b) whether Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India is prepared to re-

finance fishing companies which are in trouble; and

(c) if not, the reasons for different treatment between large shipping companies and small fishing units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

- (a) Acquisition of deep sea fishing trawlers was hitherto being financed through the Shipping Development Fund Committee (SDFC) which has since been wound up on 3rd April, 1987. Past commitments of the SDFC are being honoured by the Central Government in accordance with the provisions of the Shipping Development Fund Committee (Abolition) Act, 1986. New applications for financing of fishing trawlers are being entertained by the Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Ltd. (SCICI), which has come into being w.e.f. 8th December, 1986;
- (b) Viable rehabilitation proposals in respect of defaulting fishing companies for suitable assistance/reliefs could be considered on merits of each case; and
- (c) Does not arise.

SHRI D.P. JADEJA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a known fact that in spite of the rich fishing resources on our coasts, we have not fully exploited, even not a fraction of them. The Ministry of Agriculture have been giving a lot of promises regarding assistance to fishing industry but a stumbling block has always been the Finance that the fishing companies have not been able to get. Uptill now, they have to go to the Ministry of Transport and it was SDFC which was giving finance. It was proved that the SDFC was only interested in giving

finance to shipping companies and not to the fishing companies. Even the fishing companies whom they had assisted are the large scale companies, big companies which had their headquarters more in Delhi than in coastal region. The smaller fishing companies have been neglected at that time.

Now, I am told that the SDFC has been wound up and those who are interested in the fishing industry have to go now to the Finance Ministry, which has the SCICI which has been formed.

May I know from the Government when the smaller fishing companies need assistance, would the Government direct the SCICI to take applications from those fishing companies which are finding it difficult to finance their companies, operate their companies, so that they would be given more assistance at all liberal interest rate?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: The Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Ltd. (SCICI) has come into existence from 8-12-1986. Already, the SCICI has received 16 proposals and out of these, 13 trawlers have been acquired. It is the policy of the Government to finance even for small fishing trawler also. Whenever there are proposals, definitely every case will be examined and processed on merit and finance will flow, from the SCICI, i.e. Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Ltd.

SHRI D.P. JADEJA: I am glad to hear that this company has started functioning with effect from 8th December, 1986. May I know from the Minister one thing, i.e. out of the fishing companies that you have mentioned how many are new fishing companies and how many are spill over from the SDFC? I would also like to know when was the first application of a new fishing company received by this new SCICI and how many such applications are pending now?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: These are the new proposals, the proposals about which I have said earlier. Out of these, 7 proposals for acquisition of 13 trawlers have so far been sanctioned by SCICI new proposals. In case of 9 other proposals wherein all papers are complete, they are being processed at present. There also it will be examined and finance will be given.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I would like to know whether the Ministry is aware that there is a complaint that this newly formed company, SCICI is very liberal towards large shipping companies, large companies which have accumulated loss and arrears of crores of rupees. Whereas they are very strict and miserly towards the fishing companies. I would like to know whether you would give a direction to SCICI to give fishing industry also equal treatment, not only for new fishing companies but also for rehabilitation of the older ones.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: The policy of the Government is to meet the requirements of the fishing industry whether it is big company or small company. But the preference will have to be given to the small people, particularly for small fishing vessels. Their requirements will be fully met and each case will be examined on merit.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: They are giving preference to large shipping companies to finance.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: If there is any instance, you can bring to our notice and action will be taken.

Accident Insurance Scheme

*148. **SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government introduced a Scheme for accident insurance for the poor about two years ago;

(b) if so, whether the Scheme has been implemented and if so, the number of beneficiaries; and

(c) the details about the amount collected as premium and the amount disbursed as claims as on 31st March, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme for poor families was introduced in the country, in the first phase, in 78 districts with effect from 15.8.1985. The Scheme has been extended, in stages, to 136 more districts raising the total number of districts covered thereunder so far, to 214.

The number of beneficiaries covered under the Scheme, as on 31.3.1987, is estimated to be around 97.2 million.

(c) No amount is collected as premium from the beneficiaries. Government of India bears the entire cost of premium. The amount disbursed as claims as on 31st March, 1987 is Rs. 64.74 lakhs.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Many a time in the villages toddy-tappers may be falling from palmyra trees and the agricultural labourers as well as the marginal farmers who go to the fields die of snake bites and sometimes they will be losing their lives due to flash floods and sometimes due to electrical shocks near the agricultural pumpsets and, sometimes they will be dying due to the collapse of the earth while digging the wells or irrigation canals.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether all these types of accidents which occur in the rural areas resulting in the death of poor people are covered under the scheme.