

**SHRI BRAHMA DUTT:** This Committee headed by Shri Patel has made the following main recommendations :

1) That the constitution of the stock exchanges should be suitably amended so as not to have any in-built hurdles in providing for continuous increase in the membership of the stock exchanges;

2) That the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 may be amended to give powers to the Government to direct the stock exchanges to increase their membership in order to bring about a qualitative improvement in the membership of stock exchanges. I have already informed the House that we are at this job.

3) That the companies should be permitted to become members of the stock exchanges by suitably amending the SCR Rules 1957;

4) That provisions of Section 17 of the SCR Act 1956 providing for licensing of dealers in securities in areas where there are no stock exchanges and where the provisions of Section 13 of the said Act do not apply should be implemented after a proper induction of such dealers through a suitable examination or professional test which may be conducted by stock exchanges or the proposed Council for Securities Industries;

5) That apart from the licensed dealers, it will be useful to have a class of licensed security agents situated at places where there are no stock exchanges and where the secondary market is not well developed. The Committee has also recommended the setting up of Council for Securities Industries as a statutory body with adequate powers for performing various functions for the regulation and development of stock exchanges and securities industry.

Instead of this Council what we propose to set-up is a separate Board and very shortly it will be established and these difficulties will be removed. I am in agreement with the hon. Member that

somehow it has become a closed system and there is no uniformity in the 14-15 stock exchanges. So this system should not remain closed. People should be inducted into it and there should be some sort of uniformity.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:** Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to know from the Minister through you the number of members of the Bombay Stock Exchange against whom raids were made and whether the membership strength was reduced because of the irregularities discovered during the raids? Were the members blacklisted? What action has been initiated against the guilty persons to effect improvement in the working of the stock exchanges?

**SHRI BRAHMA DUTT:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not received any information about the number of persons against whom raids were conducted. It is true that there are some ineffective members in the Stock Exchange and they have proposed to increase the membership by 50 new members. I will inform you about the raids.

[*English*]

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:** The question relates to the membership. Due to raids, has the Government reduced the membership of the guilty persons? What action they have initiated against the guilty persons?

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BRAHMA DUTT:** In the first instance, we have not received any information about the raids and the action taken against the guilty. I will get the information and inform you about it.

#### Wasteland Development

[*English*]

\*847. **SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:** Will the Minister of ENVIRON-

MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from the voluntary organisations, private bodies, individuals and co-operative societies for providing them land to plant trees;

(b) whether Government propose to allot wasteland for afforestation purposes to the cooperative societies, voluntary organisations, private bodies and individuals based in rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS: (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) to (c). The Central Government are not promoting the entry of private companies to take up the reclamation of wasteland inside forests. The proposals in each State for afforestation of wasteland are dealt with by the State Governments concerned.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker Sir, first of all, I thank the hon. Minister for not promoting the entry of private companies to take up the reclamation of wasteland inside forests. But I also want that the Government should not grant any portion of forest land to any company. Secondly, what is your policy in regard to the demand from the various voluntary agencies, co-operative societies and such other organisations for providing land to them? I am afraid that these people may start misusing that land and you cannot take it back. Is there any law by which you can claim your land back? Is any legal action possible in this regard? If these organisations or even some individuals have planted trees and also made some investments on land, what provisions are there to check such cases of misuse of land?

MR. SPEAKER: What role have the companies to play in the matter of farming?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : The hon. Member

has asked the right question. There is no such policy which permits the misuse of forests by private companies, individuals or industrialists. In this connection, guidelines have been provided to all the State Governments for ensuring that there is no misuse of forest land by individuals, private organisations or private companies. Secondly, we have started a tree-lease scheme under which the poor people in some States are provided land on lease basis. The special feature of this scheme is that the individual will be entitled to make use of the trees only and he will not have any right of ownership of land. It has decided to provide only 1 or 2 hectares of land under this scheme so that the poor people can earn their living and the question of granting forest land does not arise.

MR. SPEAKER : The sole motive of the companies which entered the field of agriculture after 1950 was to evade income tax. This is bringing bad name to agriculture.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: It is true that some people were allotted land before 1977, and the same was done in the year 1977 and we are working into all these issues. If we find misuse anywhere, then we shall initiate proper action against the guilty. However, forest land has not been allotted to anyone after 1980. As such some applications are pending with us and some are pending with the State Governments. Mr. Patil has stated correctly and those 32 applications have reached Maharashtra Development Board. These include some private companies, individuals and some organisations and they have demanded that land be provided to them to plant trees so that they can produce their own material. Some such applications have reached the Westland Development Board as well but we have not yet sanctioned any application. We are going to frame a law soon in this regard and we will make efforts to bring it in this session or we will certainly do so in the next session in order to prevent misuse of land by individuals, private bodies and companies.

MR. SPEAKER : Not only individuals but companies also should be brought under it.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker Sir, under the afforestation programme, certain districts have been selected so that this programme can be implemented at a faster pace. I want that wherever afforestation work is undertaken, we should also ensure against misuse of land there. Is the Government making efforts to bring the afforestation programme under NREP/R.L.E.G.P Schemes? If so, what steps have been taken in this direction.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: The Wasteland Development Board was constituted with the intention of planting trees wherever trees have been felled. I want to inform the hon. Member that during the last 25 years, that is upto the Fifth Five Year Plan Rs. 241 crores were spent on afforestation work in the country. In the Sixth Plan Rs. 926 crores were spent for this purpose and in the Seventh Plan Rs. 2315 crores have been allotted under different schemes. As mentioned by him, under N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. Rs. 500 crores and Rs. 349 crores respectively have been earmarked in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Similarly, Rs. 95 crores have been allocated for the programmes for drought affected areas and Rs. 98 crores for the development of desert areas. There are many such similar schemes. If I start listing them, it will take a long time. We will be spending Rs. 2314 crores on them.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: I would like to know from the Minister a) whether in this afforestation programme of the wasteland he will take into consideration the fact that mono-culture sometimes is not a positive factor, but a negative factor and b) as you rightly said, Sir, many people who are not farmers, who are industrialists, are misusing this very scheme of the Government by constructing a small farm house and

occupying large tracts of land and thereby showing in their income tax returns that it is an agricultural income. These gentlemen farmers have no history or experience of farming. Will the Government take suitable action in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: This is not gentleman farming, but so called farming.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are very well aware that people indulge in such malpractices to evade income tax. The Finance Ministry will be instructed to take measures to check such misuse of schemes. But how can we restrict them? If a person owns 20 acres of land regardless of whether he is a businessman, we cannot stop him from undertaking agricultural activities. However, we can check whether the produce in that area is equal to other similar plots of land. For example, if the yield in the neighbourhood is 20 quintals per acre and the yield per acre in the aforesaid plot is shown as 100 quintals, then there must be something fishy. We make efforts to check this while looking into their income tax returns, and we should pay more attention to it. Thus the Finance Ministry is vigilant about the fact that people do not try to convert their unaccounted money into white by showing it as agricultural income.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: What about mono culture? Are the Government planning any particular type of trees in the wasteland? I would recommend certain fruit trees which can be grown in these areas. Because of mal-nutrition in most areas, you could have particular fruit trees for those areas, like in East U.P., you could think of jack fruit mango and jamun trees. It would also help in the nutritional programme for these areas. What sort of trees are they thinking of planting in these areas?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it depends on the areas, the quality of soil, and the availability of irrigation in that land. We are against mono-culture. We have issued guidelines to States in this regard but it depends on the climate of that region to plant a certain variety of trees so that they grow properly.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: I have asked about fruit trees ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I have told you that plantation of fruit trees depends on the soil of that area. You must be aware of it.

[*English*]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I would like to know from the Minister whether it has come to the notice of the Government that after the establishment of the Wasteland Board, a lot of land is being distributed by the State Governments under their schemes of land distribution programme etc. to the Adivasis, Harijans and others, and at least on a sizeable portion of such land distributed no cereal grows. That land is not capable of growing paddy, wheat or other cereals. Will the Government of India in consultation with the State Government encourage programme of afforestation on such land?

MR. SPEAKER: That is what they are doing.

[*Translation* ]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know that it is a State subject. The Government of India can only issue guidelines to the State Governments. Kindly listen to what I am submitting. So far as the allotment of land is concerned, I have already stated that this question does not arise. If some such matter has come to the notice of the hon. Member, then he may bring it to our notice in writing and we shall conduct an inquiry and take strong action against them.

[*English*]

SHRI M.Y. GHORPADE: Sir, I would like to know how long it will take Government to reach 5 million hectare per annum of wasteland development which is the set target that the Prime Minister put before the country. As you know, the performance is much below the target at present. How long will it take to reach the target of 5 million hectare?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: It is true that the hon. Prime Minister wants maximum afforestation in this country. Last year we could not achieve our target of planting trees on 50 lakh hectares of land. But we could cover 17 lakh hectares. The target in the current year is to cover 23 lakh hectares. By the next 2 years, that is, by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, forests will be planted over 1 crore and 25 lakh hectares of land by the State Governments with the assistance of the Centre. We will be able to attain this target by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

#### Upliftment of Tribals in Kerala

\*848. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts in Kerala having the largest number of tribal population;

(b) the quantum of funds released to Kerala State during 1985-86 and 1986-87 towards the scheme for providing margin money assistance to Scheduled Tribe families under the poverty alleviation programme;

(c) whether Government have monitored the utilisation of the said funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?