

being set up after that will be demolished and those set up before that will be rehabilitated.

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** Fortunately or unfortunately, this cut-off date was provided by the Janata Government to which the hon. Member belongs. This was February, 1977 for the marketing areas and June, 1977 for the residential areas. But, unfortunately, during their regime from 1977 to 1979, the last Government allowed many new slums to come up. Therefore, they themselves did not adhere to the cut-off date. Now we will have to ponder and think whether we will revise this date and up date it.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** The Central Government has done a commendable job so far as the slum improvement, clearance and resettlement in Delhi is concerned. But there are other Union Territories apart from Delhi which also have this slum problem. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he will advise the other Union Territories also to follow in the footsteps of Delhi.

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** As a matter of fact, I have addressed to all the Chief Ministers or the Governors, as the case may be, a letter requesting them to form a development authority for the whole State under whose umbrella various programmes can be undertaken. One is slum improvement or slum clearance. Another could be supply of drinking water and yet another can be uplift of the colonies which are considered backward and undeveloped. All these suggestions have been given to the State Governments and now it is upto them. As far as clearance of slums is concerned, it is taken up on a priority as far as we are concerned and we would try to persuade the State Governments to take it up on the priority list.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** I asked about the Union Territories.

**SHRI P. C. SETHI:** They are all covered.

### F.C.I. Godowns in Kutch and Saurashtra

\*614. **SHRI RAMJIBHAI MAVANI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are shortages of big godowns owned by Food Corporation of India in Saurashtra region of Gujarat for the storage of large quantity of foodgrains etc;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) how many such Godowns have been owned and constructed by F.C.I. from 1st April, 1977 to 31st March, 1980 and expenses incurred on such construction in various parts of Kutch and Saurashtra regions of Gujarat?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN):** (a) and (b). The Food Corporation of India does not have owned godowns in Saurashtra. The Corporation has, however, hired capacity from various agencies which is sufficient to store the foodgrains required in the region. As the hired capacity is sufficient and the requirements of public distribution limited, the FCI does not face any shortage of godown space in Saurashtra.

(c) The Corporation has not constructed any godown from 1-4-1977 to 31-3-1980 in Kutch and Saurashtra Regions and, therefore, no expenditure has been incurred thereon.

**श्री रामजी भाई मावजि :** मैं जानना चाहता हूँ—प्रभी तक सौराष्ट्र में एक० सी० आई० के गोडाउन्स नहीं बने हैं, क्या एक० सी० आई० वहाँ गोडाउन्स बनाना चाहती है ?

**शुवि तथा प्राचीन कुलनिर्माण मंत्री (श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव) :** जी हाँ, बनाना चाहती है। एक० सी० आई० का कुछ गोडाउन्स बनाने का इयान है, लेकिन प्रभी इस पर काम शुरू नहीं हुआ है।

**श्री रामजी भाई मावजि :** एक० सी० आई० ने जो गोडाउन्स रेंट पर लिए हैं, वे कितने हैं और इन पर रेंट के रूप में कितना खर्चा खर्च हुआ है ?

**श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव :** मैंने कहा है कि एक० सी० आई० के गोडाउन्स नहीं हैं, इस लिए खर्च करने का सवाल पैदा नहीं होता।

श्री रामजी साई वाचपि : मेरा मतलब है हायर का क्या खर्च हुआ, किराये का क्या खर्च हुआ है ?

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : इसकी फिगर के मुताबिक इस वक्त कुछ नहीं बतला सकता, इसके लिये अलग से नोटिस चाहिये।

MR. SPEAKER: Next question—Shri Manphool Singh Chaudhary—No.

Shri Chintamani Jena—No.

Then Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee—

Even she is not here today.

Shri Satish Prasad Singh—No.

Shri M. V. Chandrasekhara Murthy—he is also not here.

Shri K. Pradhani.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Shri Pradhani always comes.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, what do you want to say, Mr. Niren Ghosh?

That is a forward booking?

#### Rate of Interest on Cooperative Agricultural Credit

\*620. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the rate of interest on the Cooperative agricultural credit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b). The rates of interest charged by co-operatives are determined by a number of factors like cost of raising deposits, the rate of interest at which concessional finance is made available by the Reserve Bank of India for short-term and medium-term credit, refinance provided by Agricultural Refinance Development Corporation for long-term credit and administrative charges incurred by cooperative credit institutions. In respect of loans for schemes refinanced by A.R.D.C., the A.R.D.C. determines the rate of interest to be

charged to the borrower. The Reserve Bank of India issues guidelines from time to time to the cooperatives regarding the rate of interest to be charged to the borrowers, taking into account all the relevant factors. Some State Governments also provide subsidies to the cooperatives to reduce the rate of interest charged to the members for specific groups of borrowers like Scheduled Castes/Tribes and specific purposes like short-term production loans. The Reserve Bank of India has reported that there is no proposal currently under its consideration for reducing the rates of interest on cooperative loans.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have noted the answer given by the Minister. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the membership of the agricultural primary cooperative societies is increasing while the borrowing capacity of the cooperatives is decreasing day by day? In the year ending June 1978, the figure came down from 40 per cent to 33 per cent. If so, what is the reason behind this.

Secondly, I would also like to know whether the defaulters went up to 52 per cent. What is the reason for this?

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: As the hon. Member himself has said, the membership of the societies is growing higher and higher. Naturally, the loan the percentage of the loans, is also likely to be reduced. Many borrowers are not repaying the loans. This is also one of the difficulties. This one snag stands in the way of giving more loans to the farmers by the cooperative societies.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: My question has not been answered by him. My question is: though the membership of the societies is increasing day by day, why the borrowing has come down from 40 per cent to 33 per cent. This was my question.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: I have already answered that.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: That answer is not clear.