(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the basic raw material for production of newspaper is free from duty in most of the foreign countries; and

(c) whether in view of the above fact, Government propose to consider to exempt it from levy or reduce it to a nominal charge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to our information, quite a few countries do levy a duty on newsprint.

(c) The matter is under examination.

SHRI DAULAT SINHJI JADEJA: May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the suggestion given by the Executive Committee of the Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society has been considered?

The answer is that "the matter is under examination". How long will it take to take a final decision on this?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): The Society has made representations to us and the matter is under examination. The decision will be reported to the House when I move the Finance Bill for consideration.

SHRI DAULAT SINHJI JADEJA: Because of this levy, it is understood that the small and medium newspapers are going to be affected. May I know from the Hon. Minister what is the number, if not the percentage, of newspapers that would be affected by this, which come under the small and medium categories?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, newspapers are classified under three categories; those having circulation up to 15,000 are small newspapers.

Those newspapers which have circulation from 15,000 to 50,000 are medium newspapers.

And those newspapers which have circulation above 50,000 are called big newspapers.

The amount of newsprint consumption depends on the category of the newspaper.

But we have not calculated how much each category of newspaper will be able to bear the bill.

But as for the other thing, it is an argument in favour of the Newspaper Society. The argument will be considered in due course.

विदिशा जिले में क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बक की शाखायें खोलना

664. **श्री प्रताप भानु शर्मा** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्र सरकार मध्य प्रदेश के विदिशा जिले में वर्ष 1981–82 के दौरान क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक खोलने के प्रस्ताव पर विचार कर रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) इस दिशा में क्या प्रगति हुई है ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

श्री प्रताप भानु शर्मा : अध्यक्ष महोदय माननीय मंत्री जी ने इतने महत्वपूर्ण सवाल का जवाब 'यस' और "नो" में दे दिया है जब कि इस प्रश्न का सीधा सम्बन्ध ग्रामीण विकास और प्रधानमंत्री के बीस सूत्रीय कार्यक्रम से है और उन्होंने स्वयं अपने जवाब में, जो कि

उन्होंने 31 दिसम्बर, को लिखा था, इस बात को स्वीकार किया है कि क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंकों के सम्बन्ध में वे जांच करवा रहे हैं और इस सम्बन्ध में शीघ्र ही निर्णय लिया जाएगा। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि मेरे संसदीय क्षेत्र के एक जिला रायसेन में क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक हैं वहीं दूसरे जिले विदिशा में एक भी क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बक की ब्रांच नहीं है। इस सम्बन्ध में दिसम्बर में जो प्रस्ताव दिया गया था, उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है। क्या उस प्रस्ताव के आधार पर क्षेत्रीय ग्रामीण बैंक होशंगाबाद से इस सम्बन्ध में कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं? यदि हुए हैं तो उसमें अभी तक क्या कार्यवाही की गई है, यह मैं जानना चाहता हूं।

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: So far as the request of the hon. Member is concerned, it has been forwarded to the Reserve Bank for consideration. The procedure is that there is a Steering Committee which looks into the matter; this Steering Committee takes into account also the advice given by the State Government; and after all that, a decision in the matter is taken.

श्री प्रताप भानु शर्मा : वहां के क्षेत्रीय लोगों से सम्पर्क करके जो सुझाव दिया है उसका कोई महत्व ही नहीं है ?

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: That is what I am saying. The hon. Member's letter has been sent to the Reserve Bank. In this matter of establishing rural banks, the State Government is also consulted and, therefore, subject to the State Government's advice and the other factors to be considered, it will be decided.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Generally, I am told, there is bound to be at least on branch of some one of the nationalised banks in each one of our districts. I do not know whether any steps have been taken in order to ensure that this area is served by some one of these banks. If it is so served, that information could have been volunteered—in addition to saying that a rural bank is not there—that there is, at the same time, some other bank serving these people.

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: This particular District has the banking service of commercial bank branches: rural 13, semi-urban 12; total 25. Though the guideline that we have adopted is 17,000, in this particular area at the rate of 26,000 population, there is a bank provided.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the hon. Minister tell us how many proposals for opening of new rural banks from the district of Vidisha have been referred to the Steering Committee and at what stage they are?

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: There is a proposal of having a gramin bank....

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: How many proposals have been sent to the Steering Committee?

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the Reserve Bank which is to do this?

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: It is the Reserve Bank there is a Steering Committee...

MR. SPEAKER: Can you depend on that?

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: The Reserve Bank, in consultation with the State Government, considers opening or not opening, and in the event of opening, how many...

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: How many proposals are there which are under the consideration of the Steering Committee and which are awaiting the State Government's sanction?

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: There, the provision is that this

district will have one rural bank. (*Interruptoins*). It is not always so. It can also sometimes hard, within its jurisdiction, more than one district. In this particular case, subject to the Steering Committee consultation, etc., a decision will be taken.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Whenever such question come up, wherever the question of rural credit comes up, always a reference is made to the Reserve Bank and it appears as if there is some obstacle in the path of the rural population from the various procedures that have been prescribed by the Reserve Bank. Will the hon. Minister be able to tell us concretely what exactly are the obstacles and when they are expected to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): If you look at the history of agricultural credit...

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know about the policy and the attitude of the Reserve Bank towards this.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: That is what I am trying to explain. If you look at the history of the policy of rural and agricultural credit in this country, it is the Reserve Bank which has been the sponsor, the father, the guide and the philosopher of all rural development programmes..

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Father and grandfather;

MR. SPEAKER: Not stepfather:

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: In fact, all its schemes have been oriented towards rural development. The Reserve Bank naturally considers in relation to the existing commercial banks the needs of the district and then says whether a gramin bank should be opened or not. Gramin bank is a district bank dealing specifically with the smaller sections of agriculturists, the marginal farmer, the small farmer, and so on. They give loan only upto Rs. 5,000. They take into account the circumstances in the district and then decide whether it should have one bank or two districts should have one bank. We have decided that there will be, in all, more than 176 gramin banks throughout India, and in this Plan period, we will have 100 banks. Therefore, I would like to seek the patience of the House. Before the end of the Plan, we will see that all districts will more or less have a gramin bank.

MR. SPEAKER: Patience has a limit.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Before you go to the next question, I had put a pointed question whether there are any procedural difficulties and obstacles in the path and if there are, then what are the steps that you are likely to take to see that these obstacles are removed.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: There are no obstacles at all in this matter. In fact, every facility is being provided by the Reserve Bank for rural credit.

श्री शिव कुमार सिंह ठाकुर : अध्यक्ष जी, यह जो ग्रामीण बैंक खोले जाते हैं, मेरे जिले में बहुत से ग्रामीण बैंक खोले गये हैं, 15 खुले हैं जब कि विदिशा में एक भी नहीं दे रहे हैं, मेरे जिले में 15 हैं मगर देखा यह जाता है, कि यह जो बैंक खोले गये हैं यह केवल बड़े किसामों को या बड़े व्यापारियों को ही अधिक फाइनांस करते हैं। अभी मंत्री जी ने कहा केवल मार्जिनल फ़ार्मर्स या छोटे किसानों को देना चाहते हैं। ऐसी बात नहीं है। क्या इसकी जांच करायेंगे? और यदि हां, तो क्या ऐसा कोटा फ़िक्स करेंगे कि जो कमजोर किसान हैं, मार्जिनल फ़ार्मर्स है उनको अधिक से अधिक फ़ायदा हो?

SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT: The main purpose of establishing these Banks is to help this section. In any event, if the hon. Member has any complaint against the functioning of any individual Bank, he may write and we will look into it.

श्री शिव कुमार सिंह ठाकुर : छोटे किसान चक्कर लगाते हैं बैंकों के, कुएं खदवाने के लिए, बीज के लिए, खाद के लिए, यह ग्राम बात है ।

ग्रध्यक्ष महोदय : बैंक बड़ा है न इसलिए ।

जबलपुर क लिए हवाई ग्रड्डा

*666. **श्री मुन्दर शर्मा :** क्या **पर्यटन ग्रौर नागर विमानन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या जबलपुर में एक हवाई ग्रड्डा बनाने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है; ग्रौर

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या स्थान का चयन, सर्वेक्षण ग्रादि जैसी कोई कार्यवाही की गई है; ग्रौर

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्सम्बन्धी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) to (c). An aerodrome already exists at Jabalpur. However, keeping in mind the suggestion of the Ministry of Defence to shift the aerodrome owing to its proximity to the ordnance depot, an alternative site has been identified; but the question of its development will be taken up in due course, subject to availability of resources.

श्री मुन्दर शर्मा : ग्रध्यक्ष जी मंत्री जी ने उत्तर में बताया है कि जबलपुर में हवाई ग्रड्डा है । लेकिन जो है वह रक्षा मंत्रालय का है ग्रौर नागरिकों को इस्तेमाल करने के लिए उनकी स्वीकृति लेनी पड़ती है । क्या मंत्री महोदय बतायेंगे कि नागरिकों के लिए ग्रलग से भी हवाई ग्रड्डा कभी जबलपुर में बनाने की ग्रापकी योजना है ?

श्री ग्रनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा : ग्रध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने पहले ही कहा है कि यह जो हवाई ग्रड्डा है जबलपुर में वह ग्राडनेंस डिपो के पास है ग्रौर उनकी सलाह के मुताबिक हम वहां पर हवाई जहाज को उतारते हैं ग्रौर इन बातों का भी ख्याल रखते हैं कि जहां हवाई जहाज उतारे जायें वहां पर सेफ़टी का पूरा इंतजाम हो । लेकिन उसके साथ ही ग्रध्यक्ष महोदय, चूंकि डिफेंस मिनिस्ट्री ने यह बात कही है कि यह जो हवाई ग्रड्डा है वहां से हटाया जाय । इसलिए तीन जगहों का निरीक्षण किया गया है ग्रौर उसमें से एक जगह को हम लोगों ने सेलेक्ट किया है । लेकिन चूंकि छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में इसका प्रावधान नहीं है पैसे की कमी है, इसलिए ग्रगली योजना में इस काम को हम लोग लेंगे ।

श्री मुन्दर शर्मा : ग्रध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री जी ने जैसा कहा कि हम जबलपुर में हवाई ग्रड्डे का निर्माण करेंगे जैसे ही बजट में प्रावधान होगा । मध्य प्रदेश हवाई मार्ग में बहुत पिछड़ा हुग्रा है, ग्रौर मंत्री जी ने ग्रभी कुछ ही दिन पहले ग्वालियर, इंदौर, भोपाल, जबलपुर ग्रौर रायपुर के लिए बोइंग विमान चलाने की बात कही है । मैं उनसे पूछना चाहता हूं कि यह कब तक हो जायेगा ग्रौर जो रनवे कम पड़ता है उसका निर्माण कब पूरा हो जायगा ?

ग्रध्यक्ष महोदय : बोइंग के बगैर सवारी नहीं करेंगे ग्राप ?

श्री ग्रनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा : माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न किया है वह इस प्रश्न से सम्बन्धित नहीं है । लेकिन फिर भी मैं उनको यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जो समर शेड्यूल बन रहा है इंडियन एयरलाइन्स का उसमें बोइंग जहाज को भोपाल ले जाने की व्यवस्था की जा रही है ।