

particularly tribals. So far as the forest contractors are concerned Government has issued instructions to the State Governments to abolish the contract system so that tribals cannot be exploited.

So for as the privileges of tribals are concerned for collection of minor forest produce, I have already informed the hon. Member that care will be taken in the new forest policy.

Assistance for Rejuvenation of Cash Crops in Kerala

*408, SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE : Will Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) : whether Government of Kerala have sought an assistance of Rs. 603 crores from Central Government Towards rejuvenation of cash crops, and

(b) if so, the action Government have taken on that request and the details there of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The Government of Kerala have submitted a memorandum for assistance of Rs. 603 crores which include components besides rejuvenation and also crops other than cash crops. The assistance has been sought to cover a period extending to five years.

(b) : The following steps have been taken by the Government :

1. Advance plan assistance to the extent of Rs. 262 lakhs was given for input subsidies with flexibility and it can be used for plantation crops also.
2. Coconut has been included as an oil-seed crop for the purpose of supply of minikits of seeds and fertilisers to help the coconut growers in Kerala during 1983-84.
3. Assistance at the rate of Rs.50,000/ per block provided by Government of India for fruits and fuel

plantations has been extended to coconut also.

4. An additional amount of Rs 49 lakhs has been provided for development of coconut through the coconut Development Board for removal of root wilt affected palms and supply of coconut seedlings.
5. One scheme of "Loan-cum-subsidy for replantation of Cardamom" has been approved for implementation by the Cardamom Board for Rs. 272.50 lakh towards cash subsidy and Rs. 126.75 lakh towards interest subsidy over a period of 7 years. Government has also approved one scheme of Cardamom-Board for producing Cardamom seedlings in polythene bags involving expenditure of Rs. 780 lakh for 1983-84.
6. The Coffee Board's proposal for modification of "Crop Hypothecation loan scheme" involving an outlay of Rs. 2.60 crore has been approved by the Government in view of drought situation.

SHRI M.M. LAWRENCE : Kerala State is mainly producing cash crops. Because of the serious drought of last year, about 50% of the coconut trees have dried up. The yield of the rest of the trees has come down very low. For the replantation of the coconut trees the cost involved is very high But only a meagre amount has been sanctioned by the Government. The request by the State Government was for Rs. 603 crores. This is a request not only for coconut trees but for cardamom, pepper, jinger grass etc. All these plants have dried up because of the seriousness of the drought. But in his reply the Minister has stated :

"Advance plan assistance to the extent of Rs. 262 lakhs was given for input subsidies with flexibility and it can be used for plantation crops also."

I can understand the hon. Minister reply Sir, there is a saying in Kerala : One asks,

what is the price of the jack fruit, The seller replies 'It is very sweet' The Minister also replies, in the same way I can understand it If these plants are planted, I will take 5 to 6 years to get the yield out of them. They are not like wheat or paddy. What assessment was made by Government in regard to the serious drought of last year? How much loss have they suffered?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The hon. Member has asked for information regarding coconut plantation in Kerala State and the schemes which are sponsored by the Government of India. Sir, there are a number of schemes. There are some Centrally sponsored schemes also. There are Boards like the Coconut Board and Cardamom Board.

There are a number of Centrally sponsored schemes. There is a package programme for coconut and in Sixth Plan there is a plan allocation of Rs. 210 lakhs. So far as Kerala is concerned it is Rs. 98.46 lakhs and for 1983-84 for Kerala Rs. 14.87 lakhs are given. Under Coconut Development Board, there is one project for production of quality coconut seedlings. The Plan allocation for the Sixth Plan for this project is Rs. 77.55 lakhs. For Kerala, it is Rs. 20 lakhs and for the year 1983-84 it is Rs. 6 lakhs. Then, there is a project for financial assistance to Coconut growers for removal of root wilt affected palms. The total plan allocation for the Sixth plan is Rs. 24.75 lakhs for Kerala alone and for 1983-84, the Plan allocation is Rs. 8.25 lakhs.

Then, there is a project for expansion of area under coconut. The total plan allocation is Rs. 109.50 lakhs under this project. For Kerala, the outlay is Rs. 21.25 lakhs and for 1983-84, it is Rs. 4.37 lakhs. There is a project for promotion of primary processing and marketing activities. The total plan allocation is Rs. 74.20 lakhs. For Kerala, it is Rs. 6 lakhs and for 1983-84, it is Rs. 2 lakhs. Then, there is a Centrally sponsored Scheme of package programmes.

SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE : This is for cashewnut.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : These are all schemes regarding coconut

and the Government is very keen to help them. More than Rs. 71 crores have been given for the coconut development programme, that is, Rs. 71.59 crores have been given for the coconut development programme.

SHRI M.M. LAWRENCE : The amount sanctioned, as mentioned by the hon. Minister is for various crops. From the reply given by the hon. Minister, one can understand that the amount sanctioned for the various schemes is very meagre. But I may point out that the price of coconut is Rs. 4 each. Now, for seedling and replanting of coconut trees as well as cardamom, what the Government has sanctioned is a very meagre amount. So, my question is whether the Government is prepared to increase the sanctioned amount as has been requested by the Kerala State Government. It is not a request for some advance sort of amount out of the plan allocations. It is just the assistance which the State Government wants.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : All these measures are according to the Seventh Finance Commission. Coconut is not there. But most of the schemes are there and drought relief is also given under that and Kerala is given the maximum relief so far as the drought relief is concerned. There are a number of States which are affected by drought and the Government has constraint of financial resources.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : In view of the fact that coconut is grown in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Assam, may I know from the hon. Minister whether any serious effort is being made to help these States also either fully or 50:50 basis sharing with the State Governments, especially in view of the fact that coconut tree is being affected by root trouble and other pests?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I have just given the figures in reply to the question put by the hon. Member. I have given the Sixth Plan allocation and it is not only for Kerala but for West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, etc. All the States are covered under this programme. I have given separate figures for Kerala,

because the question was put by a Member from Kerala... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajda be seems to be very much interested in coconut today.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA : We are discussing the question of rejuvenation of coconut. It is a cash crop and we are spending six hundred crores of rupees. Usually, a human being when he goes beyond 55 or 60 years, is advised to take either CHAVAN PARASH, or KOKAS etc. I would like to know what are the ingredients utilised for rejuvenation of this cash crop ?.....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : So far as the first part of the question is concerned, he may ask a question to the hon. Health Minister. So far as the second part of the question is concerned, the research scientists are doing research on finding out the symptoms of the diseases and also for providing curement for the same.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : Is there something wrong with him ? You better enquire into this, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : No asperations.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Sir, the State Government of Kerala made a request for Rs. 603 crores and just about Rs. 3 crores has been given to the State Government. The total amount given is roughly Rs. 10 crores ; Rs. 3 crores to the State Government and Rs. 6 crores to the various Central Boards. I have been demanding in this House that assistance should be given to the Boards so that they can also work along with the State Government. A Committee was constituted by the Central Government to go into and evaluate the needs and damage due to the drought. What did the Central Committee recommend in relation to the damage, and the needs due to the drought ? Secondly, what about the other crops ? They have mentioned here only cardamom, coffee and coconut. I am not going to deal with regard to the functions and, utility of these Boards to

cope with the demands. Nevertheless, I would like to know about the other cash crops. Do we plan to have a crop insurance scheme for the country ? These are the basic issues. Why was only Rs. three crores given to the State Government, when their demand was for Rs. 603 crores ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : As a special case, this amount was given to the Government of Kerala. We have received three memoranda from the Kerala Government. One was received in January, 1983 requesting for Rs. 23.56 crores, the second was for Rs. 229.60 crores and the third was for Rs. 603 crores. On various occasions, the Government has sanctioned the amount Rs. 4.10 crores, Rs. 36.77 crores, and Rs. 5.69 crores. This is special assistance.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : That you should have mentioned in the answer.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : This answer is regarding the special provision, and I have given the special information about this, But this is regarding the third memorandum submitted ; and the total is Rs. 42.46 crores for 1983-84. For 1982-83 it was Rs. 4.10 crores.

The hon. Member wanted to know the plan allocation and other things regarding the cash crops. I have already given information, in reply to the hon. Member, about coconut. So far as cashewnut is concerned, it is Rs. 544 crores in the 6th Plan ; for Kerala, Rs. 119.35 crores ; and for 1983-84 Rs. 26.93 crores. Then there is the world Bank project, viz. Kerala Agricultural Development Project of Rs. 6 crores, for seven years ; and the multi-State cashew crop project is also there-the total is Rs. 793.39 crores, and for Kerala, Rs. 36.38 crores for five years.

There are other crops like rubber, cardomom and others. I am prepared to lay the information on the Table of the House. This is not related to the question, but for the information of the hon Member and of the entire House, I will place it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Question 409. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev is absent. Question 410. Mr. Jagpal Singh is not there ; Mr. Jaipal Singh Kashyap.

वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम के अंतर्गत

योजनाओं की मंजूरी

*410. श्री जगपाल सिंह :

श्री जयपाल सिंह कश्यप : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या वन संरक्षण अधिनियम के अधिनियमन के पश्चात् पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में, विशेषकर उत्तर प्रदेश में, सड़क निर्माण योजनाओं, पेयजल विस्तार योजनाओं पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में सिंचाई और विद्युत परियोजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार की मंजूरी लेना आवश्यक है,

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इस प्रक्रिया में काफी समय लगता है और पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में उपर्युक्त बहुत से निर्माण कार्य कई वर्षों तक कार्यान्वित नहीं हो पाते;

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस प्रक्रिया को समाप्त करने पर विचार कर रही है ताकि पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में विकास कार्यों को तेजी के साथ और बिना बिलम्ब के कार्यान्वित किया जा सके ; और

(घ) यदि ऐसा करने में कोई कठिनाई है तो उसका व्यौरा क्या है ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, is aimed at checking the rapid pace of dereservation of reserved forests and diversion of forest lands to non-forest purposes because in the past 30 years or so about 4.3 million hectares of forest lands have been lost this way in the country. The Act provides that prior approval of the Central Government is necessary before any reserved

forest can be dereserved or any forest land is diverted to a non-forest purpose by any State Government or local authority. Hence, all works or schemes which involve use of forest lands to non-forest purposes are covered by the aforesaid Act.

(b) to (d) Between 25-10-1980 (when the Forest (Conservation) Act was enacted), and 29-2-84, a total number of 261 proposals relating to the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh were received from the State Government by the Ministry of Agriculture. Of these, only 10 proposals are pending at present. All these 10 proposals have been received in the last two months and it is hoped that all these would also be disposed of very soon. The procedure for the processing of proposals under the Forest (Conservation) Act has been simplified and detailed guidelines have been issued to all the State Governments for the expeditious handling of such cases. The question of dispensing with this procedure does not arise.

श्री जयपाल सिंह कश्यप : माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, जहाँ तक पर्वतीय क्षेत्र के विकास का सम्बन्ध है, वह बहुत ही पिछड़ा हुआ क्षेत्र है इसलिए यह बहुत ही आवश्यक है कि पर्वतीय क्षेत्र के विकास को वरीयता दी जाए, लेकिन वन संरक्षण कानून विकास के रास्ते में बाधा उत्पन्न करता है। पर्वतीय क्षेत्र में सड़कें, पेय जल की व्यवस्था अथवा इस प्रकार के जो अन्य विकास के कार्य हैं उनके रास्ते में वन संरक्षण कानून बाधा उत्पन्न करता है इसलिए यह आवश्यक है कि इस कानून के अन्तर्गत विकास कार्यों को एग्जेंशन दिया जाए। क्या सरकार उतना हिस्सा डिलीट कर देगी, या निरस्त कर देगी या एकजैम्प्ट कर देगी जिनसे पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों के विकास पर प्रभाव पड़ता हो। जैसे 56 सड़कें अलमोड़ा और उत्तर प्रदेश के अन्य पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों के लिए स्वीकृत थी। उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार चाहती थी कि उनको जल्द से जल्द बनाया जाय, लेकिन आपके इस कानून के मुताबिक उनकी स्वीकृति