

पहुँचा सके ? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसके लिये सरकार क्या कार्रवाई कर रही है ?

श्री धर्म बीर सिंह : सरकार चाहती है कि ऐसी समाचार एजेंसी की स्थापना हो जो भारत से अफ्रीका, एशिया या लैटिन अमरीका के देशों को भारत से जाने वाले समाचार भारतीय दृष्टिकोण से और वहां से भारत आने वाले समाचार उन देशों के दृष्टिकोण से भेज सके। सरकार अपने तर्क इस प्रकार की समाचार एजेंसी बनाने का इरादा नहीं रखती है। लेकिन अगर इस तरह की कोई एजेंसी देश में बने तो उसको सरकार हर तरह की सहायता देगी।

SHRI ANANTRAO PATIL: The Minister has said that the government does not desire to start but to promote and assist the news agency. I would like to know whether any attempt has been made to promote the international news agency after the recommendation of various newspaper organisations ?

श्री धर्मबीर सिंह : न्यूजपेपर मार्गोनाइजेशंस की तरफ से ऐसा कोई प्रतिवेदन का ज्ञान नहीं है (इंटरफ़ॉज)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NANDINI SATPATHY): May I add to the reply given by my colleague that Government is aware of the necessity of such an international news agency and also Government has examined this point and some study has been made in this respect.

Export of Cashew Kernels

*819. **SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN :** Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cashew kernels exports from Kerala to foreign countries have decreased during the year 1970-71 as against 1969-70 ;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the export of cashew kernels ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Statewise export figures are not available. As regards overall exports from India during 1969-70 and 1970-71 they stand at Rs. 57.42 crores and Rs. 52.03 crores respectively.

(b) Less off take by the USSR.

(c) The market has since considerably improved. Efforts are being made to develop new markets. S.T.C. has also been asked to take up exports to non-traditional destinations.

SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN : In his reply the Minister had said that steps are being taken to develop new markets. What all steps have so far been taken to develop markets other than the principal buyers, the USSR and the USA ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : We are trying to persuade the USSR to buy their usual quota under the trade agreement. Apart from that, we are trying to develop new markets in Canada, Japan and Hong Kong. Over and above this, Western European markets have since been studied recently by a senior official of this Ministry from the point of view of undertaking promotion measures there.

SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN : In view of the fact that our export mainly depends on the import of raw nuts and also in view of the fact that we have to face keen competition from the cashew growing countries, such as Mozambique and Brazil, do Government propose to set up indigenous production of raw nuts in our country itself ?

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Yes, Sir ; the hon. Member is very correct in saying that we are now dependent for more than 70 per cent of our processing on import of raw materials from Kenya, Tanzania and other East African countries. In view of our overdependence for raw material on foreign countries, we have an ambitious programme for cashew plantation. Already, the Kerala Government has pushed through a cashew

plantation scheme and this has been highly successful. Beyond this, at present there is a scheme to utilise forest and waste lands in Orissa, Mysore and Goa for cashew plantations.

Mr. SPEAKER : The questions and replies are in consultation, I think.

Stress on Irrigation after Mid-Term Appraisal of Fourth Plan

*821. SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the reorientation of the Fourth Plan after the mid-term appraisal is expected to lay a much greater stress on irrigation ; and

(b) if so, whether any physical target in this respect has been indicated to the Planning Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA) : (a) Until the work on the mid-term appraisal of the Fourth Five Year Plan, which have been taken in hand, is complete, it will not be possible to say anything in this matter at this stage.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : May I know whether there is any idea to give it a major priority in the new scheme of orientation ?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : While having the reappraisal of the Fourth Plan emphasis shall be on such schemes which are production-oriented and also job-oriented, Minor and medium irrigation schemes being production-oriented and job-oriented, naturally, there would be a lot of emphasis on them while the reappraisal of the Plan is being undertaken.

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA : May I know whether the fact of regional imbalance in this respect would also be kept in mind ?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : The fact of regional imbalance is always kept in mind

but the House is aware that it is ultimately the State Plans and it is for the State Governments to decide the priorities. However, it shall be the endeavour of the Planning Commission to bring to the notice of the State Governments these imbalances and to rectify them.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : We are hearing of this reappraisal of Fourth Plan for a long time. We would like to know by what date they are going to complete the reappraisal of the draft Fourth Plan and whether they are going to seek some more allotment so far as medium and minor irrigation projects are concerned.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : We have already started the work of reappraisal. The Planning Commission has been consulting the various experts, technologists, scientists, political experts and whosoever is concerned with planning. Similarly, we shall be consulting the Chief Minister and the respective ministers of the State Governments. This process will naturally require some time. But I can say that within the three months to come this work of reappraisal should be complete.

So far as the second part of the question is concerned, it cannot be said at this stage what would be the allocations. But, naturally, having regard to the massive challenges we are facing today, we shall have to find out how we can re-mobilise our resources and how we can meet the challenges.

MR. SPEAKER : You don't want any bonus allowance ?

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि चौथी पंच-वर्षीय योजना के मध्यावधि मूल्यांकन का काम अभी पूरा नहीं हुआ है। केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा सब राज्यों में कुछ जिले पिछड़े हुए माने गए हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन जिलों के विकास के लिए चौथी पंच-वर्षीय योजना में छोटी सिंचाई योजनाएँ और अन्य विशेष कार्यक्रम बनाये गये हैं ; यदि हाँ, तो कौन से।

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA : I have brought to the notice of the House that all