

lar Wing of the High Commission of India, Singapore misappropriated a total amount of Singapore Dollars 62,970/- (equivalent to Indian Rupees 3,65,680/-) from out of the Mission's consular revenue during the period August 1987 to July 1988.

(c) On detection of the misappropriation in August 1988, the matter was reported to the Singapore Police. The services of Mrs. Leela Pillai were terminated with effect from 1st September 1988 and she was arrested by the Singapore Police the same day. Mrs. Pillai was subsequently released on bail. The High Commission of India, Singapore filed a statement showing all the incidents of misappropriation with the Singapore Police on 12.10.88 for recovery of the defalcated amount and for appropriate action against Mrs. Pillai for criminal breach of trust. The Singapore Police are expected to file prosecution case against Mrs. Pillai soon on completion of other investigation.

SHRI H. A. DORA: Sir, lots of misappropriations have been committed in Indian Embassies abroad. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he is able to give the number of misappropriations that have been committed for the last three years; the amount involved therein; the persons involved therein and the action proposed against those persons.

PROF. K. K. TEWARI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have just stated in my reply that this particular case was brought to our notice and the appropriate action has been taken in this matter. I am not aware at the moment of other cases. I need a separate notice for that.

SHRI H. A. DORA: What is the future course of action that is likely to be pursued by the Government of India to contain misappropriations particularly in the Indian Embassies where the local recruits are given employment as Cashiers?

PROF. K. K. TEWARI: Normally, deployment of officers and staff depends on the judgment of the Head of the Mission. We

have been issuing instructions and we have reiterated it again that the local recruits should not be deployed in sensitive places or in Cash Sections.

British Assistance in Food Processing Sector

*417. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT†:
PROF. RAMAKRISHNA
MORE:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Britain has offered to collaborate with India in food processing and to provide assistance in this sector;

(b) if so, the details of the offer made by Britain in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). During the meeting of the Indo-British Economic Committee held in February, 1989, cooperation possibilities in the fields of process engineering, cold storages and packaging were explored in relation to food processing industries.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, delegations come, especially to this Ministry for foreign collaboration. I say that they come and discuss the matters and leave the country and no further action is taken. I want to know whether your Ministry, your department does not remain prepared or they come unprepared. The Minister, all the officers and the Secretaries meet them, but what are the reasons that it does not yield any results? Particularly, I would like to ask what was the outcome of the several discussions held with the British delegation that visited this country recently. What possibili-

ties were explored? What offers were made by the Government and what was the response? What industries did you propose in which work will be undertaken? My question is as to why your department, your Ministry totally draws a blank. What are the reasons that concrete proposals are not kept ready to reply to their queries or hold talks with them when they arrive.

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I am sorry to say that the Hon. Member is misinformed of the working of the Ministry. The Ministry is eight months old. After organising the Ministry, with the kind of agreements we have entered into and with the kind of new policies we have come out with the concessions, it has done good work.

Referring to the initial question about the British Delegation which had come recently, I would like to inform him that only yesterday I had received a letter from the British Minister wherein he has written that the British businessmen are showing a lot of interest. He want me to come with a few industrialists so that we can have a meeting, and I or my officers could tell them what my Ministry is doing.

I would like to inform the Hon. Member that I feel that in another two years' time the results of what we have done would come because it has just started. In another ten years' time this Ministry will be bigger than the Commerce Ministry with the kind of exports we are involved in and with the kind of deep sea fishing we are involved in.

It is a good news that the Americans and the Japanese are prepared to go in for the fishing if I could give the machines. Americans alone are prepared upto one billion dollars a year. Japanese also say, "as much as we can give them." We are trying our level best and I think the future is very bright. (Interruptions)...The future of the whole industry is very very healthy and I think ultimately I am going to see that the farmer gets

a better value for his produce and his children get jobs.

MR. SPEAKER: Make fish farms for that

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are as many as 9 districts in Vidarbha region where no work has yet been started by the Food Processing Ministry. When we are discussing about foreign collaboration here, I would like to refer to orange that is produced in my region. Yesterday I saw inauguration ceremony of a pineapple processing plant on the T.V. You must do some thing to boost storage based industry because small units become sick in a couple of years. No big industry is coming up. The farmers are not getting any assistance and the prices of orange are going down. This is the position to-day. Please consider this and take some steps so that the farmers could get some jump, some benefits. Will you make some concrete proposals in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: Orange is produced either in your area or in Abhor-Fazilka in Punjab.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Orange is also produced in Mandsaur. Mr. Speaker: I had an idea that you grow opium.

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Pepsi Cola people are already exploring the Punjab produce. I would like to tell you what happened yesterday for the first time in the history of this country. Right in the far north east a tribal man used to grow pineapple and he used to throw them away in the market in the evening or maybe he was selling a piece for 10 or 20 paise. And still nobody was interested in that. In the last eight months I was able to help those tribal people and yesterday we started this drink of pineapple.

Can you imagine, Sir, the fruit which they used to sell in the market for 10 paise or 15 paise today Government has come in and is paying Rs. 2.00 per piece? Delhi people are bale to taste the same juice which was produced in the farthest end of the country. I am going to see that we exploit these belts as much as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, please arrange to supply one tin each to all Members.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India created this Ministry after due thought and this portfolio was entrusted to the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister is taking interest in it. But I would like to bring one thing to your notice and to the notice of the hon. Minister that this Ministry has not been given as much boost as it ought to have been given. Only a brief discussion was held on it and the reply was also equally brief. What are the small items on which discussion took place which was in the interest of farmers, provide help to them and benefit them. Which Industry discussion was held that could be of some use to the poor people. I want to know whether fish industry has been included in the discussion? If so, whether the Government plans to set up any such industry in Andhra Pradesh which has a large coast. The second thing that I would like to bring to your notice is that it is all right that the hon. Minister is taking interest in it and some officer are also working hard, but how the Ministry will coordinde things if one officer sits in Air Head-quarters, the other in Krishi Bhawan and the third one in Transport Bhawan. I, would, therefore, like to ask you as to what steps are you going to take to bring the entire Ministry at one place so that the benefits may reach the people at the earliest.

MR. SPEAKER: That is all. Tulsiji has started narrating Ramayana.

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, every action which is taken by our Ministry relates to the farmers and we see that the farmers benefit. As far as my Ministry is concerned, it is not at three-four places. No doubt there is shortage of staff which we are going to get but the work is not suffering. I would like to give credit to the officers that with the limited staff they are able to do so much in eight months which probably the bigger Ministries have not been able to do.

SHRI K. S. RAO: Sir, it is common knowledge and the worry of all of us that the farmers are not getting the right rate for their produce and the consumer is paying too heavily. The hopes of the farmers have gone up substantially high with the coming into existence of food processing industry. Nuzivedo is an area in my district which is very popular in mango producing which are also being exported but the farmers are not getting the right rate. So I wish to know from the hon. Minister, irrespective of whether a particular district or an area in under Central subsidy or State subsidy, whether he will consider at least giving these benefits if somebody starts an industry in food processing in Nuzivedu to see that the farmers get the right price by doing the conversion there itself?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: We would do everything possible to help the farmers and our Ministry is always there to help them.

[Translation]

DR. C.S. VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no work has yet been undertaken by the Ministry of Food Processing Industry in Bihar. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what this Ministry is going to do in the matter of food processing industry in the industrially backward districts, especially in that district which is flood hit and quite sufficient in agriculture in Bihar? Is there any project for that district under your consideration? My constituency, Khagaria is an agriculture dominated constituency, but there is

not a single industry in it. Is the Government thinking in terms of setting up a food processing industry there?

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Every action I take is for the whole country. It is not for a particular State. You please give me proposal and we will help you.

[Translation]

DR. C.S. VERMA: What are you doing to set up Food processing Industry especially the places where there is no industry at presents.

[English]

Development of Wheat Varieties Through Bio-Technology

424. SHRI SRIHARI RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the application of bio-technology techniques has helped in developing new wheat varieties; and

(b) if so, the details of new wheat varieties developed and the estimated increase in wheat production thereby?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) and (b). Bio-technological research for developing wheat varieties has been initiated only recently and, therefore, no new wheat variety has been developed through the adoption of this technique. Moreover, the performance of the newly developed varieties needs to be tested thoroughly before recommending them for general cultivation, Hence, it is rather early to indicate the effect of such varieties on wheat production.

[English]

SHRI SRIHARI RAO: I understand that an international institute of bio-technology is

being set up in Delhi. I would like to know whether bio-technological research for developing wheat and other varieties has been incorporated in the agreement for establishing this institution. If so, what are the details and in which institutes in this country will there be tie-up?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr Speaker, Sir, research in the field of bio-technology is going on at three centres, but no variety has so far been released. Research has been going on in this field for the last 3 years but none of the varieties has been released so far because that can be done only when all results relating to disease resistance, yield and quality are tested. Tests for all these things are going on. It is our endeavour to release it at the earliest, but it has not been released so far

[English]

SHRI SRIHARI RAO: Is the bio-technology for developing all wheat varieties being imported? If so, is there any agreement to have indigenous research and development?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, deliberations are held with foreign nations from time to time and views exchanged. Our specialists go abroad and the specialists from foreign countries come to our country. After considering all aspects, the seed is procured and sown here for testing. The seed is released and distributed among farmers for general cultivation only after complete satisfaction of the scientists of our country.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, paddy is grown over a large area in Madhya Pradesh and the crop takes 4 months to be harvested. After harvesting paddy some people grow wheat in their fields but the farmers in general feel that the fertility of the field gets depleted after the cultivation of paddy. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any research is being carried out to develop a