

who are using high-yielding variety; that is about my first supplementary.

My second supplementary is that the results of research show that there can be new variety of rubber plant capable of being used in non-traditional area. It has been said that even desert areas, can be used, for rubber cultivation. But practically no research is made in that direction, in our country.

I would like to know whether any research in this regard is made in our country. If not, will you take it up with the concerned Rubber Board Department so that research is conducted in that direction also ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Research has been conducted in that direction in our country. As a result of that research, various measures have in fact been taken recently so far as the Eastern region is concerned, in the North-Eastern region in order to develop the rubber Plantation. In 1984, an outlay of Rs. 3 crores was sanctioned for that purpose so that the nurseries, research farms, nucleus rubber estates and trading centres could be established. Various steps have been taken for setting up the offices etc. in the area also. What is happening is, this particular Research Board is trying to expand the area for the purpose of cultivation of rubber in the non-traditional areas and, as my hon. friend has said, one of these areas is the North-Eastern region.

Consortium Finance of Cooperative Banks

*898. **SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what role National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and the Reserve Bank of India contemplate to play in arranging consortium finance of Cooperative Banks for meeting the credit needs of the National Cooperative Organisations in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : A Statement is given below.

Statement

NABARD has already taken a decision to allow the State Cooperative Banks to join the various consortiums of banks in financing the national level cooperative organisations. State Cooperative Banks would be permitted to join the various consortium arrangements if they satisfy the following conditions.

- (i) They should have fulfilled the requirement of providing 25% of their internal lendable resources for short-term agricultural lending.
- (ii) They should have adequate long term disposable resources with them which could be conveniently spared for participating in the consortium arrangements.
- (iii) They should have resources of long term nature to participate in the consortium arrangement at least for a period of three to five years so as to avoid any possibility of abrupt withdrawal by them from the consortium arrangements.

State/Central Cooperative Banks have been advised to prepare their performance budgeting and credit planning on an on-going basis. This will be monitored by **NABARD**.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the Agriculture Refinance Development Corporation has been charging an interest at the rate of 10 to 11% for agricultural loans given to the farmers in the country whereas the World Bank is charging 0.75% interest for long-term agricultural loans? In this connection, I would like to know what are the reasons for charging so much high rate and whether Government proposes to reduce the interest for the long-term loans given for agricultural purposes in the country.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development is charging 7% to the State Cooperative Banks and then these

Cooperative Banks, in turn, lend the money to the District Central Cooperative Bank at 7.5%. Then, the Central Bank to the Society at 9%. So there is no proposal for reducing this rate of interest.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK:
I want to know whether the cost of the agricultural land is assessed very low while giving loans by the Co-operative Banks and the Scheduled Banks as compared to the industrial sector. What is the reason for that?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : We are not discriminating between agricultural land and the industrial land.

Losses Suffered by National Textiles Corporation

*899. **SHRI UTTAM RATHOD :**
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the value of the products of the mills under the National Textile Corporation during the last year and that expected during the year 1986-87;

(b) whether any losses were sustained by the National Textile Corporation during 1985-86 and if so, the amount of losses; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the performance of the mills under the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) The production value of the mills under National Textile Corporation during 1985-86 is estimated at Rs. 967.76 crores. The likely production value during 1986-87 is estimated at Rs. 1010.00 crores.

(b) During the year 1985-86 (April-85 to February-86) the nationalised mills under NTC incurred losses amounting to Rs. 117.44 crores and the managed mills in-

curring losses amounting to Rs 49.95 crores during the above said period.

(c) Some of the important steps taken/ being taken, within the limited resources, to improve the performance of the mills under NTC are as under :

- (i) arrangements are being made for timely procurement of cotton from different available channels;
- (ii) working capital has been replenished to make up for cash losses;
- (iii) to overcome the power shortage, self-generating capacity has been provided;
- (iv) selective modernisation programme have been adopted for result-oriented gains making best use of limited resources;
- (v) cost control methods have been introduced for reduction in cost at all levels;
- (vi) efforts are being made for reducing the non-operational administrative expenses;
- (vii) workers' participation scheme in the management is being encouraged to achieve higher productivity; and
- (viii) the performance of NTC is being monitored closely to reduce costs, improve efficiency and quality.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : In reply to part (c) the Minister has stated in (i) that arrangements are being made for timely procurement of cotton from different available channels.

May I know which are the channels? Private or co-operatives or the CCI?

SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN : They are the Co-operatives and the CCI.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : May I know which are the NTC units which are