

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI: Sir, so far as the banning of frog legs is concerned, I would like to inform the hon. Member that it is the marine exporters who are to engage the people for their activities on two counts. One is the manufacturing process and the other is the trapping process. The trappers are the licence holders. Obviously when the ban is there, we cannot protect them in that profession. But the problem is created due to the ban on exporting the frog legs. As regards the problem of unemployment as a result of that, I think the concerned State Governments will look into the problem effectively and see how to deploy them in some other areas.

AN HON. MEMBER: Ask them to catch rats and snakes.

**Permission for Cotton Monopoly Purchase in Maharashtra.**

\*384. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given permission for cotton monopoly purchase in Maharashtra only for three years; and

(b) what is the reason to give periodical extension to this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Government have given approval for the continuance of the cotton monopoly scheme in Maharashtra for a period of 3 years with effect from 1.7.1986.

(b) Government have given periodical extensions to the scheme, so as to enable a critical review of its functioning and impact on the cotton economy of the country from time to time.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Sir, this cotton monopoly scheme was started in Maharashtra for the benefit of the cotton producers and according to most of the cultivators, we find that the scheme is working for the benefit of the cotton grow-

ers. When we approach the Government, they generally give us extension for a year or two. May I know how long will the Government take to have a critical review of the whole scheme. It is more than fifteen years now. Simultaneously, I would like to know whether they have done a critical review of the free trading cotton for more than eighteen years and if so, what is the finding. Does it work in favour of the cultivators or against them?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: Sir, as I said, we have already given approval for the continuance of the scheme for three years with effect from 1.7.1986. The reason I have given is that according to the prevailing economic situation, we have to review the scheme from time to time. If we decide for ever, I think grave consequences will follow. For example, the scheme has been incurring tremendous losses in some areas whereas in some areas it has been working well. There were number of shortcomings in the scheme as it was worked before. So, looking to all these factors, we have decided that the scheme should be continued for three years, during the course of which we will be able to judge its working, and when the time for review and its extension comes, we will be able to take a reasonable decision.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: What about the next part, Sir? Is it more than beneficial than the free trade or not? You just reply to that.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: It has certain advantages and certain disadvantages. For example, the Corporation which was handling this, reportedly incurred an estimated loss of Rs. 350 crores last year. So, no blank statement can be made whether it is good or bad. If you work it in a particular way or in a particular situation, it is helpful, but if not, then it is not.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.