

far as the apple is concerned, it carried scab; and the crew agreed that it was nothing short of cheating. I had suggested that the contract of the caterer should be cancelled. I have not heard anything so far. It was a suggestion from an MP. What will happen to ordinary people who are giving suggestions?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: I agree with the hon. member regarding having this survey, but we have taken action. About certain flights, complaints have been received. We are trying to minimize such complaints, and we have to improve what the caterers serve in the aircraft. We are doing that.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: The food served on the Indian Airlines flights on the main route is far more satisfactory than the transit route like Delhi-Bhopal-Jabalpur-Raipur and back on the same route. The food served at Jabalpur is made at Raipur. Basically, it is moong ki dal, burfi and a samosa. A suggestion was given that the lunch should be served at the same place where it was prepared. Secondly, instead of serving it in the aircraft, a carton is given right at the ladder as we are getting boarding card; right there itself the carton is given. I think it is very humiliating. At least the carton can be handed over to the passengers in the aircraft. Would the hon. Minister be kind enough to say that these suggestions will be implemented immediately particularly on transit route where very few of us travel?

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: We will definitely look into the valuable suggestion given by the hon. member and see that things improve.

SHRI A.E.T. BARROW: On two occasions I had to wait for four hours at the airport when my flight was delayed. Nothing was served till I got in touch with some officer. I went and tried to locate the officer. He was somewhere or other. Eventually, they told

me to get in touch with another officer. It took three hours. After that only something was served. It was limited to whatever was available at that time in a canteen there; it was limited to certain things only available in a canteen there. They had got other things which were available, but they were not made available to the passengers who were delayed. So, there should be some system at least at the airport-if the flight is delayed-by which some refreshment should automatically be made available to the passengers.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: The transit crew sometimes do not have good calibre. As the hon. member has said, I am really sorry that he had to wait for some hours. But instead of making such things available, we would see that no such delay occurs; and if delays occur, then proper food be served to the passengers in the aircraft.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 171. Shri S.G. Gholap-not present; Q. No. 172-Shri Manik Reddy-not present; Shri Subhash Yadav-not present; Q. NO. 173-Shri C. Janga Reddy-Not present; Shrimati N.P. Jhansi Laxsmi-not present. Shri G.S. Basavaraju-not present; Q.No. 173-Shri Mukul Wasnik-not present; Shri Amarsinh Rathawa-not present. Absentee galore. Shri Kamla Prasad Singh-Q. No. 176-not present. Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh.

(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Should we allow him three questions?

District Co-operative Banks in U.P.

*177. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development provides

financial assistance to the District Co-operative Banks in States;

(b) if so, the number of such District Co-operative Banks in Uttar Pradesh which are facing financial crisis and out of them how many have been given assistance by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development; and

(c) the plan of the NABARD to assist the remaining District Co-operative Banks in Uttar Pradesh?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance assistance to the District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) in the States through the State Cooperative Banks.

(b) and (c). Out of 57 DCCBs in Uttar Pradesh, 49 such banks were sanctioned short term credit limits of Rs. 227.26 crore during 1987-88 by NABARD. The remaining DCCBs were not sanctioned these limits, as they had adequate resource, of their own or overdues in those banks were high.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has specifically stated that the banks with heavy overdues were not sanctioned short-term credit limit by NABARD. A number of villages which were attached to these banks did not get enough funds for development, and therefore the farmer could not benefit much. Will the Government think of any other alternative?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: NABARD has increased the time-limit for repayment of

credit by the Cooperative Banks under the 12 Point Programme. Besides, assistance is given to all the banks under this programme and this has enabled them to help each and every farmer who is in need of assistance.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: I would like to know whether the 12 point Programme has been implemented? The farmers could not be benefited because the overdues of these banks were high, and as a result they did not get credit-facility. I would like to know whether money has been given to the farmers under the 12 Point Programme?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: I possess the details of the 12 point programme which has been implemented. If you wish, I can lay it on the Table of the House because it would take much time to read it. There are different provisions for different things like seasonal agricultural operation loan and loan from National Rural Fund.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Thank you for laying it on the Table of the House. Besides Uttar Pradesh, could you tell us something about Bihar in this regard? How many cooperative banks in Bihar have not been sanctioned credit so far? Are you also aware that the funds primarily meant for the benefit of farmers have been given to those who are not engaged in agriculture?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: It is the duty of the banks in that area to ensure whether the farmers have got the relief meant for them. We do not possess the details in this regard. It is for the banks to investigate these things.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: The question is that an amount of Rs. 2 crores has passed into the hands of those who are not at all concerned with agriculture. That is why you must keep this information. It is not for charity.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: We do not possess the information regarding the banks who have sanctioned these loans. If the hon. Member gives us details in this regard, we can seek clarification from the State Government.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker Sir, as the Minister may be aware, the lending criteria of district co-operative banks are closely linked to the recovery performance. As the and as the Government knows full well, the country is facing an unprecedented drought. If the local criteria are so directly linked to recovery performance, then the districts which are affected by drought would not be able to make use of unrestricted lending facilities. Because of this, the Government of India have introduced re-scheduling formula. But the re-scheduling formula. But the re-scheduling formula needs the cooperation of many agencies like the State Government, District Cooperative Banks, NABARD, State Cooperative Banks and Central Government. Because of involvement of so many agencies and the complicated re-scheduling formula, this formula is more honoured in breach than observance. I, therefore, would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what the Government of India doing with a view to see that the re-scheduling formula is effectively implemented so that in all drought affected districts the unrestricted lending facility is made available to farmers. In the case of Andhra Pradesh, the Government knows full well that we have a single window system which is being implemented on a pilot basis ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You should put only one question. And you have already taken more than 2 minutes.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: They do not want the question to be understood by the

Minister. Anyhow, I have put the question and let him answer it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: As far as I could understand, he wants to say that the re-scheduling formula is not effective. The hon. Member must be aware that a big kisan rally was organised when the Hon. Prime Minister visited Andhra Pradesh. He had formally announced there that the Central Government has directed the States to recover short term loans on instalment basis over a period of seven years from the farmers of those States which are facing drought for more than two years and on easy instalments over a period of ten years from the farmers of those States which have been facing the drought for three or more years. So far as rate of interest is concerned, the Finance Minister announced in the House this year that it would be reduced. It was reduced from 12% and 11 1/4% to 10 per cent and where the interest has accumulated more than the principal amount it was written off. The Government has given every possible concession to the farmers. I want to submit another thing that all the banks... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The formula is not being implemented there.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: It will be implemented: We have reviewed the formula and sent it back. People will tell you about it when you visit them again.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I have returned only today. I did not find any such thing.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You have just returned. How can you know if you shuttle between Andhra Pradesh and Delhi by air? When you go to the fields, people will tell you that the formula has been implemented.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Braja Mohan Mohanty-absent; Shri G. Bhoopathy-absent; Shri Jitendra Prasada-absent.

I will have another round. I will call the members who were absent earlier. Shri Ram Swarup Ram, Dr. A.K. Patel, Shri Prakash Chandra, Shri Dharam Pal Singh Malik, Shrimati Basavarajeswari, Shri S.M. Gu-raddi, Shri S.G. Gholap, Shri Manik Reddy, Shri Subhash Yadav, Shri C. Janga Reddy, Shrimati N.P. Jhansi Laxshmi, Shri G.S. Basavaraju, Shri Mukul Wasnik, Shri Amarsinh Rathawa, Shri Kamal Prasad Singh, Shri Braja Mohan Mohanty, Shri G. Bhoopathy, Shri Jitendra Prasada.

None of them is present. So, the Question List is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Steel Production Costs in Public Sector

*141. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of production in public sector steel plants compares favourably with that of private sector steel plants;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to reduce steel production costs?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b). Production costs differ from plant to plant due to difference in inputs and capital related costs and in the product mix. A direct com-

parison between production costs of different units is, therefore, not possible.

(c) Steps being taken to reduce the production costs of public sector steel plants include higher capacity utilisation, improvement in technological processes, stricter techno-economic discipline and higher productivity.

High Content of lead in Ganga

*142. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the high content of lead found in the sediments of the Ganga; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

HIGH CONTENT OF LEAD IN GANGA

(a) Of the various studies taken up in the context of the Ganga Action Plan, one study on the role of sediments in attenuation of trace metals by a Professor of Banaras Hindu University relates to the content of lead found in the sediments of the Ganga.

(b) The reports received from the study indicate the presence of lead in samples of sediment taken at Mirzapur, Varanasi and Ghazipur. However, in the absence of any established standard for lead content in sediments it is not possible to