

(b) if so, where the talks are being held; and

(c) who are the participants in the talks from both sides and what is the progress so far?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Senior officials of the Government of India and Leaders of the NSCN (IM) have had several rounds of talks at different places and as a result a cease fire between NSCN (IM) and Govt. of India has come into effect in Nagaland since 1.8.1997 which continues till date and is currently valid upto 31.7.2000.

Ganga Kalyan Yojna in Maharashtra

***357. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE:** Will the Minister RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries comprising small and marginal farmers below the poverty line in Maharashtra, district-wise, under Ganga Kalyan Yojna; and

(b) what is the number of beneficiaries covered under this scheme from Adivasi and other than Adivasi areas, separately in that State?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA):

(a) and (b) Eight districts of Maharashtra namely Dhule, Jalgaon, Buldana, Akola, Yavatmal, Amaravati, Nagpur and Chandrapur were covered under the erstwhile Ganga Kalyan Yojana. (GKY). The Yojana, which was started in 1996-97 could not be implemented fully due to some operational difficulties. It has therefore, been discontinued w.e.f. 1.4.1999. During its operation, only 25 individual projects comprising non-scheduled tribe beneficiaries in two districts i.e. Dhule with 4 and Akola with 21 could be implemented in the State.

Food for Work programme in Orissa

***358. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:** Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have Proposal to launch Food for Work programme in the cyclone affected districts in Orissa;

(b) if so, the funds earmarked therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to launch the programme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA):

(a) The High Powered Task Force for rehabilitation and reconstruction for cyclone area of Orissa has suggested that 'Food for Work' programme should be designed essentially for the 14 affected districts.

[22 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) No funds have been specifically earmarked for the programme, which will be covered as part of the normal programmes.

(c) Government of Orissa have sent a proposal wherein they have indicated that foodgrains should be in the form of rice. The proposal is under consideration.

Circulation of Fake Currency

*359. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item titled, "Singapore to U.P. townships: Money racket busted", appearing in the Indian Express dated the 7th November, 1999; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to curb fake currency notes distributed mainly in small towns of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 'Police' being a State subject as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, prevention of crime is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, in order to combat counterfeiting, currency notes are now printed with additional security features. The Reserve Bank of India issues press releases, from time to time, to enable the public to distinguish between genuine and fake currency notes. The Border Security has alerted its forward troops to be more vigilant so as to ensure that such currency notes are not smuggled into the country. The Central Bureau of Investigation has created a Special Unit for exclusive investigation of counterfeit currency notes.

Jute Growers in the country

*360. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of jute growers in the country; and

(b) the steps taken by Government on the plight of jute growers because of reluctance of JCI to procure jute from farmers, and non-operation of NJMC mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Around 4 million agricultural families are involved in jute cultivation.

(b) As the prices of raw jute in upcountry and local markets generally have been ruling well above minimum support price in the current season JCI was not required to carry out any major price support operation. However, in some isolated pockets where prices touched MSP level, JCI carried out price support operation which restored price above MSP level.