

SHRI AJIT PANJA: I was about to reply and there were interruptions in the middle. Sir, so far as the Government is concerned, the 'Ramayan' is definitely secular and we will continue it. (Interruptions)..... We must not mix up our own philosophy with religion and try to criticise. These are the rudimentary things which we learnt even as the first year students of economics..

SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: What about Tirukkural?

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, so far as the other secular subjects as the honourable Member has said, are concerned, they have to apply according to the rules of the Doordarshan and, certainly, this is being thereafter the same would be considered.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Prof. Lakshman.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: With regard to these two important items, namely...

MR CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Substitution of tobacco by other crops

*501 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently received any suggestion from the Cancer Research Institute, Bombay, for substitution of tobacco by other crops; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) Yes, Sir.

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(b) Because of trade demand, good varieties and technologies, tobacco has come to be the most remunerative crop over other crops in all the tobacco growing areas, over a period of time. In view of its recently reported deleterious effects on health, efforts are being made to develop (i) 'Safer Tobacco' having low carcinogenic properties; (ii) develop alternate uses of tobacco for production of pesticides, organic acids and proteins, and (iii) identify alternate crops to replace tobacco.

Removal of control over the prices of Vanaspathi

*505. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to remove control over the prices of Vanaspathi;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that Vanaspathi is available to consumers at fair prices?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) There is no control over the prices of vanaspathi. However, after discussions with the Government vanaspathi manufacturers have voluntarily agreed for a price discipline by keeping the maximum price of a 15 kg. tin of vanaspathi at Rs. 335 (local taxes extra) This voluntary price control is continuing.

2. Some other important steps taken by the Government to ensure the availability of vanaspathi at fair prices are:

(i) Effective supply management of imported oil keeping in view the availability and prices of indigenous oils to vanaspathi industry.

(ii) State Governments/U.T. Administrations can procure 30 per cent of vanaspati produced within their jurisdiction at ex-factory price for supply through P.D.S., if they consider it necessary.

(iii) A watch is being kept on prices of vanaspati by the Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable Oils & Fats with the help of State Governments/ U.T. Administrations.

(iv) States have been asked to ensure effective implementation of the pulses, Edible Oilseeds & Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977.

(v) Sale of imported edible oils in the open market by State Trading Corporation.

Organising Youth Parliaments in India

*506. SHRI RAM CHANDER VIKAL: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to organise 'Youth Parliaments' throughout the country;

(b) if so, what are the outlines thereof; and

(c) by when the Youth Parliaments are likely to be organised throughout the country.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir. However, it has been decided in consultation and co-ordination with the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Deptt. of Education) that on the occasion of 40th anniversary of India's freedom, a national level competition amongst the Kendriya Vidyalayas be organised.

(b) The outlines of the aforesaid schemes are under process of finalisation.

(c) No specific date for holding the Youth Parliament Competitions amongst all the schools at national level can be given as it requires consultation and agreement with the State Governments.

Negotiation with International Fund for Agriculture Development

507 SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are negotiating with the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Rome, for launching a tribal development project in Orissa covering Kshipur Block of Koraput district; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. SHRIMATI RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI): (a) and (b) Negotiations have been held with the International Fund for Agricultural Development for a loan of SDRs 9,250,000 equivalent to US \$122 Million towards part financing of a Tribal Development project in Kshipur Block of Koraput district in Orissa at an estimated cost of Rs 32 crores. The project is intended to achieve sustainable economic upliftment of the Tribal Population and to arrest further degradation of the natural resources base in the project area through a coordinated programme of investment in agricultural production, development of human resource and rural infrastructure.

Purchase of rice/wheat by NCCF Branches

*508 SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state: