

(ख) सरकार का ऐसा कोई निदेश देने का विचार नहीं है, जिसके मुख्य कारण ये हैं :

(1) राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक पहले से ही, कृषि-प्रयोजनों के लिये अग्रिकात्रिक ऋण, व्याज की उन दरों पर उपलब्ध कर रहे हैं, जो उन दरों से बहुत नीची हैं जिन पर गैर-संस्थात्मक स्रोतों से ऐसा ऋण प्राप्त हो सकता है।

(2) इन बैंकों द्वारा कृषि प्रयोजनों के लिये ऋण देने के लिये शुरू की गयी नयी योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत इन ऋणों की संचालन-लागत (आपरेशन कास्ट) के बढ़ जाने की सम्भावना है, लेकिन चूंकि कृषि एक प्राथमिकता प्राप्त क्षेत्र है इसलिए इन बैंकों द्वारा कृषि ऋणों के व्याज की दरें काफी नीची रखी गयी हैं।

(3) इन बैंकों द्वारा कृषि-ऋणों पर लिये जाने वाले व्याज की दरें, सहकारी बैंकों द्वारा इन प्रयोजनाओं के लिये दिये जाने वाले ऋणों के व्याज की दरों से ऊंची नहीं है।

[THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE <SHRI P. C. SETHI>: (a) Comparative figures of outstandings as at the end of June and December, 1969 in respect of the advances made by each of the nationalized banks to the farmers for tractors, tubewells, seeds and other inputs, to the road transport operators (including taxi owners and tempo-owners) and to small-scale industries, are given separately in the Statement [See Appendix LXXI, Annexures No. 32 to 34.]

(b) Government do not propose to give any such directive for the following main reasons:

(d) The nationalised banks are already making available increasing amount of credit for agricultural purposes at rates considerably lower than those at which such credit could be available from non-institutional sources.

(ii) Under the new schemes of credit put into operation by these banks for agricultural purposes, the operational costs of such loans

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are likely to go up; but agriculture being one of the priority sectors, a reasonably low rate of interest on agricultural loans is being charged by these banks.

(iii) The rates charged by these banks on agricultural loans also compare favourably with those charged by the cooperative banks for such purposes.]

ASIAN FLUE

483. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN:

SHRI G. P. SOMASUNDARAM:

SHRI KANCHI KALYANA SUNDARAM:

SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASHAM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to stop the spread of Asian Flue which is called winter virus all over the World; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof¹

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY): (a) Yes.

(b) (i) On receipt of Information regarding the outbreak of influenza epidemic in Europe due to A3/Hong Kong/68 and certain reports in the local newspapers of a similar outbreak of the disease in India, a letter was sent to all States asking them to report the incidence of influenza and advising them about the steps to be taken for its prevention and treatment and the procedure to be followed for the collection of pathological materials from the patients.

(ii) In States like, Rajasthan and Gujarat where large numbers of cases were reported, steps were taken to give medical relief in the affected areas by providing medicines to the

village panchayats and mobile medical units. Steps were also taken to stock the essential drugs in the primary health centres and district hospitals.

(iii) Action was also taken to prepare vaccine at the Central Research Institute, Kasauli and the Pasteur Institute, Coonoor to keep reserve stocks to meet the demands.

MALHOTRA COMMITTEE REPORT ON PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM

484. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN:

SHRI G. P. SOMASUNDARAM:

SHRI KANCFII KALYANA SUNDARAM:

SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASHAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the seven-member committee headed by Shri M. M. Malhotra has submitted any report on the production of petroleum; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) A study Group, of which Shri M. M. Malhotra, Chief of Economics and Statistics Division, was the Convenor, was constituted not to report on production of petroleum but to study the additional refining capacity in the country upto 1975 and related matters.

(b) The Committee studied, *inter alia*, region-wise product demand, availability of crude from all indigenous sources including offshore areas and Iran Offshore, the costs of transport requirements for transport of products, expansions of public sector refineries and the need or otherwise of a hydrocracking unit.

NATIONALISED BANKS

485. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN:

SHRI S. SIVAPRAKASHAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main features of the decision taken by the Co-ordination Committee of the Nationalised Banks;

(b) whether any common Policy has been evolved in regard to the Bank's contribution to the loans floated by the State Governments and other agencies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The Coordination Committee of public sector banks, which is a forum for discussing matters of mutual interest, has met twice so far. The major decisions taken at these meetings were about setting up an Inter-Bank Service Bureau for dealing with common problems relating to Organisation and Methods, appointment of Study Group to evolve a suitable procedure for inter-bank drawing arrangements, devising steps to prevent unhealthy competition among public sector banks, enforcing stricter financial discipline in respect of major borrowers, setting up a Study Group to go into the question of certain major public sector accounts and the working norms for lending rates, designing a form for survey under the 'Lead Bank' scheme, fixing interest rate on deposits of religious and charitable institutions and such other matters.

(ib) No, Sir. This matter was not discussed at the Co-ordination Committee meeting.

(c) Does not arise.

W.H.O. FINDINGS ON LEPROSY

486. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a finding of the W.H.O. that leprosy is curable and preventable and that isolation of patients is costly and unnecessary; and