

assurance from the Land Development Banks that the meeting will be held, and on that assurance the Reserve Bank has cleared this loan. Still they have got to hold the General Body Meeting. They have said they will be holding the General Body Meeting by the end of August. I hope it will be held. In regard to the other question as to what special assistance is given to the weaker States, there are schemes under which we give certain special liberalised assistance in respect of subsidies to the weaker States. For instance, we give more money towards the Special Bad Debt Reserve Fund as well as the Long-term Operation Fund to the States, and the N.C.D.C. also is contributing a certain amount towards this. But, as I said, there is no special or favoured treatment to Maharashtra or Gujarat. In Gujarat and Maharashtra the position is somewhat different because the Co-operative Banks and the Land Mortgage Banks and other co-operative societies are quite strong. So, there is a special effort made by us to help the co-operatives in the eastern zone and Rajasthan, but it cannot be done by the efforts of Government alone. It requires the support and involvement of the co-operative leadership.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Man Singh Varma.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : मैं आपसे सुरक्षा चाहता हूँ . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I am calling Mr. Man Singh Varma. It is very difficult to run the Question Hour like this.

श्री मानसिंह वर्मा : महोदया, मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि राज्यों को धन देने का आधार क्या है, सहकारी समितियों की संख्या या बैंकों की संख्या? अभी अभी जैसा आपने बताया, कुछ प्रान्त ऐसे हैं जिनको 70-80 प्रतिशत का हिस्सा मिला है और कुछ प्रान्त ऐसे हैं जो बहुत पिछड़े हुए हैं। इसका कारण क्या है और पिछड़े हुए प्रान्तों को उस स्तर पर लाने के लिए क्या प्रयत्न किए जा रहे हैं?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : It depends upon the weaknesses, of

these co-operative societies being identified. There are different types of co-operatives. For instance, on the credit side we have got schemes to rehabilitate these weak societies, and we give them managerial subsidy and also subsidy for supervisory staff and a pattern of assistance has been evolved for this purpose. But the whole effort is to see that within as short a time as possible, perhaps within five years, all these co-operative societies may be rehabilitated either through amalgamation or liquidation if need be, or by providing subsidies for managerial purposes.

SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA : May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Co-operative Banks and the Land Development Banks are releasing loans to the people at a higher rate of interest than the rate of interest that the Reserve Bank is charging? May I know whether the hon. Minister will examine this question and reduce the rate of interest in order to help the farmers and people in general in the rural areas?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : Madam, this question does not arise out of this.

सोयाबीन के तेल का आयात

*** 419. श्री राम सहाय :** क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने को कृपा करेंगे कि क्या वनस्पति घी के उत्पादन में प्रयुक्त होने वाले तेलों की सप्लाई में वृद्धि करने के लिए पी० एल० 480 के अन्तर्गत सोयाबीन का आयात करने का प्रस्ताव अब कार्यान्वित कर दिया गया है, और यदि हाँ, तो कितना सोयाबीन आयात किया गया और इसका वनस्पति घी के मूल्यों पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ा?

†[IMPORT OF SOYABEAN OIL

*** 419. SHRI RAM SAHAI :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether the proposal for importing soyabeans under PL 480 to add to the supply of oils used in the production of vegetable oil has since materialised; and if so, the quantity of soyabeans imported and its impact on the prices of vegetable oil?

†[] English translation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) :

There is no proposal to import soyabean under PL 480. However, 66,947 tonnes of soyabean oil has been imported during 1969 (up to July) and another 14,672 tonnes are due to arrive by the end of this month. These imports are intended mainly to augment internal supplies of edible oils and incidentally help to check undue rise in oil price.

†[**खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अण्णासाहेब शिंदे)** : पी० एल० 480 के अंतर्गत सोया बीन के आयात करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है। तथापि, 1969 में (जुलाई तक) 66,947 मीटरी टन सोयाबीन तेल आयात किया गया है और इस माह के अंत तक 14,672 मीटरी टन तेल और आने वाला है। ये आयात मुख्यतः खाद्य-तेलों की आन्तरिक सप्लाई बढ़ाने और साथ ही तेल के मूल्य में अनुचित बढ़ोतरी को रोकने के इरादे से किए जा रहे हैं।]

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जान सकूंगा कि सोयाबीन का जो आयल आपने मंगाया वह किन किन देशों से मंगाया और किस कीमत पर मंगवाया और जो कीमत यहां सोयाबीन के आयल का उत्पादन करने में लगती है उससे ज्यादा है या कम है?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : The soyabean oil is imported only from the U.S.A. and the landed price is between Rs. 2100 and Rs. 2200 per tonne.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : May I know if there have been proposals for similar import of sun flower seeds or sun flower oil for the same purpose of increasing the supply of edible oils? If so, I would like to know from the Government if they have exhausted all efforts to increase indigenous production in the country, because in view of the tight foreign exchange position does it appear to them

to be an easy way of solving the problem to import such manufactured products instead of trying to improve the production of the raw materials here?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Our long-term approach is not to go on depending on imports. Our long-term approach is to increase and encourage the production of the raw materials even including sun flower and we are trying to encourage the sowing in an increased acreage of soyabean in our country. As far as the current situation is concerned, as a result of last year's steep fall in production of groundnut, there was a tendency for oil prices to go up. We had no other go but to import immediately. As I have replied to the main question, we have imported substantial quantities. Also we are negotiating with the Government of the U.S.A. for the import of 1 lakh tonnes more of soyabean oil. There is also negotiation going on with the U.S.S.R. for the import of 10,000 tonnes sun flower oil.

SHRI K. SUNDARAM : May I know whether this soyabean oil has been imported for edible purposes or for pharmaceutical purposes?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I have explained that it is for edible purposes.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जान सकूंगा कि आपने अपने देश में एग्रोकल्चर डिपार्टमेंट में जो सोयाबीन की खेती के बारे में विचार किया और काम किया उसमें कितनी प्रगति हुई? क्या वह संतोषजनक है; और अगर संतोषजनक नहीं है तो उसके बारे में और क्या उपाय आप सोच रहे हैं?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : We took steps since the last two years and the progress has been very encouraging. This year the total acreage which we have fixed up is about 16,000, and the Pantnagar Agricultural University and some other universities and some other progressive farmers, including the National Seed Corporation, are taking a lead in this in organising the seed production programme. Next year perhaps we may have seeds available to sow 1.5 lakh acres of land in our own country.

SHRI M. SRINIVASA REDDY : In regard to this import of soyabean oil there is a fluctuation in the groundnut prices and therefore the market prices are not stable and there is insecurity for the agriculturists in that way. So what are the steps that the Government is thinking of taking to give security to them with regard to the prices of groundnuts?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : This is much beyond the purview of this question, Madam.

EMBEZZLEMENT IN PAHARI DHIRAJ HOUSE BUILDING SOCIETY, DELHI

*420. **SHRI KRISHAN KANT :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any complaints have been received from any members of the Pahari Dhiraj House Building Society, Delhi in respect of embezzlement of the various amounts collected from members by its ex-President (now Treasurer) and Secretary, if so, the details thereof and the amount involved in the embezzlement;

(b) whether the duly audited annual accounts have been sent to all members a fortnight before the General Body meetings as required under the law and whether notices of the General Body meetings were duly sent to members every year sufficiently in advance, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether a part of the cost of land already paid by a member and deposited with the D. D. A. is being charged from him again by the Secretary of the Society and if so, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken against such office-bearers of the Society so as to save the co-operative movement and to safeguard the interests of the members?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) :
(a) No, Madam.

(b) According to the Bye-laws of the Society it is not a requirement to send the annual audited report to the members before the General Body meeting. Notices of General Body meeting had been sent to the members before the meeting.

(c) No, Madam.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know whether it is a fact—I had raised it earlier—that this Pahari Dhiraj House Building Society has become a family affair, that the President is the father and the Secretary is the son for a number of years?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is 420.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : One is Mr. Mahavir Prasad Jain and the other is Mr. Khajan Chand Jain and in the family of Jains, some of them have built houses and still they continue to be members of this Society. Not only that. According to the co-operative laws, they can sell their shares only to other family members, but they are selling them through the property dealers. Who are those people in that family of Jains? Has the report come to the Government or not?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : I do not know whether it has become a family affair. And for the information of the hon. Member I may say that originally when it was registered there were only 15 members, may be related to each other; I am not sure. But later on the number was increased to 53. It is 53 now. I require notice to know the relationships, their family background and all the rest of it.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know whether the Co-operative Department of the Government of India will look into it and hold a fuller enquiry because of the fact that this land which they have got is being sold to others and the cost of the land which was given in 1967, 1968 and 1969 was deposited only last October and the whole money was lying with them for so long? Will the Government order a fuller enquiry into the whole thing?

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY : It is for the Delhi Administration to hold any enquiries, and the Registrar is competent under the law to have investigation. Regarding the deposits I have got the figures here. The total deposits collected were Rs. 1,60,600 from its members and the money deposited towards the cost of the land is Rs. 1,54,808, so that there is only a little balance left.