

खर्चा दिया जा सकता है, मैं यह बात जानना चाहता हूँ।

श्री सत्य नारायण सिंह : यह तो बीमारी के ऊपर है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ten minutes are over.

STUDY ON BETTER LAND USE

*93. SHRI M. M. DHARIA :f SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been undertaken for better utilisation of land in different States with a view to attain maximum production of foodgrains and cash crops and to evolve a National Food Production Programme;

(b) if so, what is the outcome of such survey; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir. With a view to providing basic information on soils for various agricultural development programmes for maximising food production, soil surveys, are being carried out by Central and State Soil Survey Organisations on selective basis.

(b) According to available information nearly 190 million acres have been surveyed for different purposes by various organisations. The information made available by Soil Surveys has been useful in formulation of soil conservation programmes in catchment areas of river valley projects, reclamation of deteriorated and culturable wastelands, determination of fertility status, delineating irrigability classes in command areas and selection of cropping patterns.

(c) Does not arise.

fThe question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. M. Dharia.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Sir, is the Government aware that with proper planning and with better crop pattern, it is possible to make this country not only self-sufficient but also to export foodgrains and cash crops to various countries ? And when the resources are available, why is this much of time being consumed by the Government for this survey ? May I also know from the hon. Minister how, after this survey, the Government intends to implement the recommendations that are made by the survey officers ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : These surveys are of a general nature, and the hon. Member should appreciate this fact that our farming community is a very intelligent community. Though here and there, there may be scope for advising the farmers in a particular region that they should take to particular crop patterns, by and large, in this country various crops are coming up and the farming community is trying to take to various crops, etc. By and large, the picture is not so disappointing as the hon. Member thinks. Of course, our effort is to see that the latest knowledge in science, technology, soil analysis and soil survey is used and that is furnished to the farmers through the various extension services and agricultural universities so that they are better equipped to take advantage of the emerging crop patterns that are developing.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: I, the hon. Minister aware that even though the farmers are quite intelligent, as they do not get remunerative prices for the foodgrains for which their lands may be suitable, they turn their lands for producing cash crops ? Under the circumstances, may I know how the Government plans to meet this eventuality and to see that with better production the farmer, whether he produces foodgrains or cash crops, gets remunerative prices ? Even though these survey reports may come to the Government, without solving this issue, it is not possible for the intelligent farmer to go ahead with the cultivability of his land, (s he aware of this problem and what steps are being taken in this regard ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I do not know whether this supplementary which has been put by the hon. Member arises out of this question. But I am subject to the judgment .

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Why not ?

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : It arises.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kulkarni.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, you are coming to the help of the Minister.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : They belong to one State. Let them mutually adjust.

SHRI V. G. KULKARNI : But we belong to Parliament.

Sir, the hon. Minister has said that soil surveys are made. This is a very important problem in farming technology. As in industry, there is a technology here about the suitability of the land, the production pattern, etc. He said that the farmer is intelligent. But also, the farming technology is there. Now, there is the hereditary pattern of sowing the crops and that must be changed to suit the soil, to suit the fertilisers, to suit the weather and other conditions. In this connection, if we want to attain 120 million tonnes...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kulkarni, why do you go into detail and make a speech ? Kindly put a question.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Please allow me to say...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not want you to waste more time.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Sir, this is not a political question, this is a technical question.

We want to attain 120 million tonnes of food production or more than that. At present, as has been rightly stated by my colleague. Mr. Dharia, cash crops are being brought in to get more money. For this purpose, the Government must proceed and soil utilisation and soil utilisation ratios in

terms of crops must be studied and the farmer must be educated. I do hope that the Government will not remain content with conducting soil analysis; an education programme must be brought in. For this purpose, I want to know what positive steps the Government is thinking of taking to educate the farmer on better land use so that this nation might be benefited.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, I entirely share the sentiment of the hon. Member that we have to attain self-sufficiency. And may I submit for the information of the hon. Member that we do not want any increase in production of foodgrains or cash crops at the cost of the acreage of each other ? Our entire stress is on productivity, raising the yield per acre, whether it is cash crops or foodgrains. As I have explained already, there are our extension services, our agricultural universities and our research centres and their entire emphasis is to make the latest advances in soil science, in the properties of soil, in soil analysis, etc. available to the farmers and also to make popular agro-economic practices so that the farmer community is in a position to make better use of the land. The hon. Member may be aware that as a result of the impact of all this, the farmers in large areas of our country are taking to new agro-economic practices. They are resorting to double-cropping and they are taking to crops which are popular in certain other areas. I may cite the instance of Punjab. Punjab was not on the map of cotton a few years earlier, a decade earlier. But now cotton is coming up in Punjab in a very good way. Similarly, other crops are coming up in certain other parts of the country. And this is as a result of the positive steps taken by the Government, the research organisations and the extension services in the past years.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : This question relates to better production from land. Apart from the steps indicated by the Government in the name of soil conservancy and other research works, may I know whether the Government proposes to take energetic steps for the distribution of the excess land held by the tea estates in West Bengal, and the loess land in UP and take other land reform measures so that best

utilisation of land can be made for food production ? Secondly, may I also know from the Government whether the Government agrees with me that indiscriminate acquisition of agricultural land also stands in the way of the best utilisation of land for food production ? If so, what steps do the Government propose to take in this matter ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: As far as the distribution of forest and other lands is concerned, this is not covered by this question at all.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Yes, it is.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : This is about soil survey.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I want to make it quite clear. I want the hon. Member not to feel hurt if I do not allow, because 10 minutes are over, anything to go on, however big a question may be. I also ask the hon. Members and also the Ministers to be as brief as possible and to the point.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : The question relates to better utilisation of land.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: It relates to soil survey.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Read the heading of the question—"Study on better land use".

AN HON. MEMBER : The question relates to soil survey.

WITHHOLDING OF PRESS TELEGRAMS

*94. SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Working Journalists Association of Orissa has represented to him and the Press Council against withholding and delaying of Press telegrams from accredited correspondents from Cuttack during the communal tension in the last week of November, 1968; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken on that representation both by Government and by the Press Council ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is being investigated and necessary action as called for will be taken in due course.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS: Mr. Chairman. Sir, I am astonished. The question was raised in December in this House and I gave also a Calling Attention notice and also short notice questions which were not allowed and were not accepted by the Minister. Sir. it is a question of the Press and the Communications Department have violated the rule of the land. They enforced censorship through the backdoor in their attempt to avoid this whole question. They sat over the whole question for the last two months. In the month of November when there was communal tension in Cuttack, the Press reports that were filed by the Patriot, the Hindustan Standard, and the Times of India were withheld by the District Magistrate on the initiative of the Telegraph Department. May I know from the Minister under what rule they withheld these reports or sent these communications to the District Magistrate. The District Magistrate never asked for these reports from the Communications Department. May I know whether they treated them objectionable or alarming ?

PROF. SHER SINGH : I may reply the first question first. The Utkal Journalists Association wrote to us saying that if the messages were withheld as objectionable then an impartial body of the Press Council should be given this work of finding out whether they were at all objectionable. And we referred this matter to the Press Council. The Press Council is now handling the whole affair. The last letter the Press Council have received from the General Secretary of the Utkal Journalists Association is dated 6th February saying that the Association was collecting information from the individual correspondents concerned and they would forward the same as soon as it was received. Therefore, we are seized of the matter and the Press Council is investigating.