

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES FOR AGRICULTURE

*635. SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the number of applications that have been received by Government for the starting of Joint Stock Companies for agriculture, and from which States ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : 41 enquiries have been received regarding the proposal to permit Joint Stock Companies to undertake farming. The State-wise break-up is as under :—

Andhra Pradesh	..	..	6
Delhi	..	..	8
Kerala	..	..	1
Madras	..	..	6
Maharashtra	..	..	14
Uttar Pradesh	..	..	2
West Bengal	..	..	4

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY : May I know whether any special facilities would be extended to them ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The principle itself has not yet been finalised, whether we should allow the joint stock companies to undertake farming in view of various other decisions we have taken in regard to land reforms. Therefore, it is only after the principle is accepted that the other things would arise.

श्री जगन्नाथ प्रसाद : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिन ज्वाइंट स्टॉक कम्पनीज को जमीन देंगे उन पर क्या सीलिंग का कानून लागू होगा या सीलिंग के अलावा भी वह जितनी जमीन चाहेंगे ले सकेंगे।

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : That is what I said. The principle has not yet been accepted and once the principle is accepted as a national policy then all the other things could easily be worked out.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरीड़ाया : श्रीमन्, क्या यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि ज्वाइंट स्टॉक कम्पनीज को एग्जिस्टेंस में लाने की अपेक्षा सहकारी समितियों को ही क्यों नहीं इसका मौका दिया जाता है और आर्थिक दृष्टि से उनको जो कमी पड़ती है उसमें उनको विशेष सहायता देकर उनको ही प्रोत्साहित करने में क्या कठिनाई है।

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, co-operative farming is an already accepted national policy and all assistance is being given to it. The idea of allowing the joint stock companies in this sector is not to allow them to farm already developed lands. It is only for the purpose of developing wastelands, lands which have not yet been developed. That is the only sphere for which they are being considered but even on that no final policy decision has been reached.

636[The questioner (Shri S. K. Vaisampayan) was absent. For answer, vide Col. 3764 infra.]

RAJASTHAN CANAL FOR NAVIGATION PURPOSE

*637. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to utilise Rajasthan Canal for navigation purpose after its completion; and

(b) if so, whether the canal authorities have been advised to shape the canal for that purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) and (b) The question of providing navigational facilities on the Rajasthan Canal is under Government's consideration.

श्री जगन्नाथ प्रसाद : श्रीमन्, मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया कि वह मामला अभी विचाराधीन है, तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इसका फैसला आप कब तक कर देंगे और जैसा

कि मैंने भाग (बी) में पूछा है उसके बारे में यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि अगर आपका फैसला 'हां', मैं होगा तो क्यों नहीं आप राजस्थान कैनल अथॉरिटीज को इस बात की हिदायत पहले से दे देते हैं कि इसी तरह से कंस्ट्रक्शन किया जाय जिससे कि यह न हो कि पहले पुल बनाया जाय फिर उसको तोड़े और फिर बनायें ।

श्री राज बहादुर : इस सवाल के दो पहलू हैं, एक तकनीकी और दूसरा उसके खर्च से सम्बन्धित है । जहां तक टेकनिकल बात का सम्बन्ध है इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं है कि ऐसा किया जा सकता है, इस नहर को नैविगेबिल बनाया जा सकता है । खर्चा इसमें अधिक आता है तो वह कहाँ तक उठाया जा सकता है, कहाँ तक इसका बंदोबस्त किया जा सकता है—यह सवाल विचाराधीन है ।

श्री जगन्नाथ प्रसाद : यह तो नहर के सम्बन्ध में आपने बताया लेकिन जैसा कि हमने सुना है और देखा है कि पाकिस्तान ने एक नहर बनाई, इछोगिल कैनल, तो रक्षा के लिये सुरक्षा की दृष्टि से इसको बनाया जाय इसको ध्यान में रखकर के क्या इसे सरकार बनावगी, क्या इसे सरकार इस तरह बनायेगी कि रक्षा के लिये यह उपयोग में आ सके ।

श्री राज बहादुर : इस सम्बन्ध में जब कभी रक्षा मंत्रालय कुछ विचार प्रकट करेगा तो उस पर जरूर विचार किया जाएगा ।

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The hon. Minister has said that the matter is under consideration. May I ask him whether he is aware that in the meantime digging is going on and this would make a considerable difference in the design ? If it is to be used for navigation, would it not make a difference ? Does the Minister want to take a decision after the canal is ready ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : I would like to take a decision at the earliest possible moment but the question is one of resources. As I have indicated, it is entirely in the

hands of the Planning Commission and as soon as it is able to make up its mind about the allocation of resources, we shall be able to do it. The Transport Ministry is entirely in favour of it.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : May I know whether the economics of using this canal for navigation purposes has been worked out because transport of goods by canal would be very much cheaper than by road or rail ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : It is true that for bulk commodities like wheat, grain, salt, cement, fertilisers, etc. etc., this will be the cheapest mode of transport and if extended up to Kandla, this could really serve a very useful purpose. The economics is absolutely clear but the question is one of providing the funds.

SHRI T. V. ANANDAN : In the Third Five Year Plan a sum of Rs. 9.05 crores has been allotted to what is known as inland water transport navigation and improvement. It is there that the Rajasthan Canal is referred to. The Buckingham Canal is to have mechanically propelled shallow crafts. Have all these been done ? Has this sum of nearly nine crores of rupees been used and if so, with what results ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : The question is an omnibus one and I would require notice so far as the Buckingham Canal is concerned. The crucial matter, so far as the Rajasthan Canal is concerned—as Mr. Gujral pointed out—is whether we should not take such steps as may be necessary right now when the canal is under construction to make it navigable, but I think it is necessary now to keep in view the emergency and I think the Planning Commission is well aware of it.

*638. [The questioner (Shri Ram Singh) was absent. For answer, vide col. 3767 infra.]

*639. [The questioner (Shri Sitaram Jaipuria) was absent. For answer, vide Col. 3767 infra.]