

expansion of the Aranyanivas Hotel at Thekkady, costing Rs. 2 lakhs. And there is to be provision of launches for the use of tourists in the Periyar Lake to see wild animals. That costs Rs. 1 lakh. And this is a provision for 5 small launches, at the cost of Rs. 11,500 each for use of the tourists. These and other amenities will be made available at Periyar Lake, by the end of the current year. Administrative sanction has also been given for the expansion of the Aranyanivas Hotel at Thekkady.

SHRI S. C. KARAYALAR: What are the facilities available to the tourists to go to Aranyanivas Hotel from Trivandrum or other places?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Private cars and buses should be there from Madurai side and also from the Ernakulam side.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: The hon. Minister stated just now that the expansion of the Aranyanivas Hotel is contemplated. May I know whether this expansion will cost the tourists more? That is to say, is it to be a medium or middle-income group tourists hotel?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: For the middle-income group there is already a good rest house established. I mean the rest house has already been constructed and in fact, it has been thrown open already. So far as the Aranyanivas Hotel is concerned, an expansion of the accommodation in the existing Hotel building is to be provided.

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: In the statement placed on the Table of the House, it has been stated that in the Central sector there is an allocation of Rs. 7.40 lakhs for the development of tourism in the State. May I know in what particular aspects this sum is going to be spent?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: Yes, Sir. The Golf Course in Bolaghatty Palace at Cochin had to be improved. Actu-

ally this has already been done. There is then the provision of launches for cruises in the backwaters at Cochin. Administrative approval for the purchase of a luxury boat for Rs. 1 lakh and a small boat at a cost of Rs. 49,000 for cruises in the backwaters of Cochin has already been issued. The restaurant at Kovalam is to be expanded. The Aranyanivas Hotel is to be expanded and Thekkady is to have launches for visitors to use on the Periyar Lake.

***362. [The questioner (Shri J. K. P. Narayan Singh) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2559-2560 infra.]**

CROP INSURANCE

***363. DR. A SUBBA RAO:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to enact legislation for crop insurance to cover losses suffered by farmers due to floods and droughts has been considered by Government; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH): (a) and (b) A proposal to enact legislation for crop insurance is under Government's consideration.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know from the hon. Minister how long it will take for a final decision to be reached on this matter?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: We have already drafted a Bill and sent a copy of that Bill to the Government of Punjab for ascertaining their views, because the Punjab State wants to introduce this crop insurance scheme first. The moment we receive their views, we shall have it enacted.

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: Are there any general insurance companies that are already carrying on some kind of

crop insurance and, if so, may I know whether the Government has ascertained from them how the scheme has been working?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: There is some co-operative insurance done and some cattle have been insured in Punjab at Morinda, some buffaloes. That is the only experience that we are having about this work and we understand that it is working properly.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: May I know whether this insurance is to be in the public sector and, if so, what type of farmers will be brought under this insurance scheme? Will tenants-at-will also be included in this crop insurance scheme?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: In the main, it is to be introduced crop-wise, and the idea is to bring under it all the agriculturists of the particular area. For instance, in Punjab, the proposal is to introduce it in six districts simultaneously, but only at six centres, that is to say, in six N.E.S. Blocks. All the cultivators there who grow gram, wheat, sugarcane and cotton, are supposed to be brought under this insurance programme.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I ask whether this crop insurance will be compulsory or will it be voluntary? Will the farmers be free to go in for this insurance or will it be an obligation on them to take up this insurance?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: We want to introduce it on a compulsory basis, Sir, because unless and until we do that, the full benefit of this insurance will not be available to the growers.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: May I know whether it is not necessary to introduce it, if at all, on a national basis so that the risk can be covered properly?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: That is the idea, Sir, and, therefore, we are going to have Central legislation and we will approach all the State Governments to introduce this as expeditiously as possible.

SHRI A. D. MANI: The Minister often referred to the Punjab in his answers. May I ask him whether this is going to be confined on a trial basis to the Punjab or to selected districts in every State of the country?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: At first it is going to be introduced in the Punjab because they have agreed.

SHRI M. RUTHNASWAMY: May I know why the Bill is not being circulated to the States i.e. States other than the Punjab?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: We are in contact with the other States and we will also have the Bill sent to the other States.

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: What would be the premium for this compulsory insurance and what guarantee will there be to get it paid?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: The guarantee is this: We want to have it for a period of three years for in a period of three years the quantum of damage that is done to any crop can be determined. We are going to determine the premium on the basis of the damage that is likely to be caused to crops in a period of three years—the average of three years. This premium has, however, not been determined because that is a matter of detail that will have to be worked out.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: Sir, if the idea is to make it compulsory, may I know whether any attempt has been made to ascertain the opinion of farmers or their organisations in advance? If so, what is the opinion?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Sir, farmers everywhere, in all the States

and the Union territories, feel that some sort of guarantee should be given to them against the natural calamities and wherever there is flood or hail storm or something like that, they expect that the Government would help them in fighting that calamity. Therefore, I think that the farmers would very much welcome this and though, of course, nothing like a referendum has been taken, farmers are going to be helped.

SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: May I know why this experiment has not been made in areas which get flooded year after year?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: I would very much like this to be introduced in those parts also and I would appreciate if the hon. Member comes forward and sees that that particular area gets ready for this.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether this scheme of crop insurance would be under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and whether the Insurance Commissioner and the Finance Department have been consulted in this matter?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: The hon. Member, Sir, is quite familiar with our administrative system and Finance is always consulted. In this matter also, whichever be the department or authority that will deal with this, the usual consultations are followed but this subject will have to be under the Ministry of Agriculture.

SHRI SYED AHMAD: What is the nature of the machinery for assessing the losses to the farmers?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: The farmers are the best judges of their losses.

SHRI A. D. MANI: In answer to Mr. Bhargava's question, he said that the Member would be familiar with the

administrative machinery of the Government but the specific question asked by Mr. Bhargava was whether the Life Insurance Corporation or the Controller of Insurance was consulted. Have any of these authorities been consulted on this important piece of legislation?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Actually, whenever we embark upon any new scheme the Financial Adviser is always present in that type of consultative apparatus. We have got a Financial Adviser attached to our Ministry and he represents the entire Finance Ministry, including the Life Insurance Corporation.

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: May I know what type of loss would be covered under this insurance scheme? Will it be confined only to floods and droughts or whether crop failures due to other reasons would also be covered?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Natural calamity means every type of natural calamity. Drought, etc., can also be included.

DR. A. SUBBA RAO: What is the type of premium that is proposed to be levied on the policyholders? Will it be in kind or in actual cash?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: It will be in cash.

شری پھارے لال کریل ددطالبہ :

اس سبب سے میں میں یہ جاننا چاہتا ہوں کہ فارمس کی طرف سے کسانوں کی طرف سے کیا کوئی دیپنڈنٹیشن آیا ہے یا ان کی طرف سے اس بارے میں کوئی نمائندگی ہوئی ہے اور کیا انکی رائے معلوم کرے کی کوشش کی گئی ہے -

†[श्री प्यारे लाल कुरील 'तालिब' : इस सम्बन्ध में मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि फार्मर्स की तरफ से, किसानों की तरफ से क्या कोई रिप्रेजेंटेशन आया है या उन की तरफ से इस बारे में कोई नुमाइन्दगी हुई है और क्या उन की राय मालूम करने की कोशिश की गई है ।]

श्री राम सुभग सिंह : असल में हम लोग जितने यहां पर हैं करोब सभी, अधिकांश सदस्य, किसानों के प्रतिनिधि हैं और हम लोग थोड़ा बहुत उन की तरफ से बोलने के हकदार हैं ।

RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR: May I know whether the opinion of the farmers has been taken for this compulsory insurance?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: I have already clarified this question, Sir, in replying to Mr. Sinha, that we have not under taken any referendum.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: While I congratulate him for the good step he is taking . . .

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, not at all.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY . . . I would like to know whether he intends to do this thing as a sound business proposition, a 'No loss no profit' proposition or as a proposition of only loss and no profit.

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: Sir, I want to make this a business proposition but a type of business proposition which is not going to operate against the peasants. Their interests will be uppermost in our mind.

SHRI SYED AHMAD: Sir, my question has not been answered by the hon. Minister. I wanted to know as to who will assess the loss. What is the machinery for assessing the loss? The peasant would not be allowed to assess it. An officer or somebody will

†[] Hindi transliteration.

make the assessment. What is the machinery that is likely to be employed for assessing the loss on account of national calamity, etc?

SHRI RAM SUBHAG SINGH: This is a familiar thing. So far, the losses were determined by the Revenue authorities but now panchayats are established virtually in all the areas and now the losses will be determined—because this becomes a matter of detail—by the panchayats and the Revenue authorities but our own people will be very much there.

SCOOTER-RICKSHAWS IN DELHI

{ SHRI A. M. TARIQ†:
*364. { SHRI FARIDUL HAQ
 { ANSARI:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration by Government for asking the scooter drivers in Delhi to fix fare meters in their scooters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that scooter drivers charge higher fare from the passengers; and

(d) if so, what steps are taken by Government to check this?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) to (d) A statement giving the information required is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Yes. Following complaints about overcharging by scooter rickshaw drivers, the State Transport Authority Delhi, decided some time

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri A. M. Tariq.