

(b) what different places have so far been visited by the team; and

(c) what assessment, if any, has been made by the team regarding the effects of the drought on the economic life of the people in the affected areas and the country as a whole?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. N. MISHRA): (a) to (c). Attention of the hon. Member is invited to the report of the team made available to the Parliament on 3rd December, 1957.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether it is a fact that the team's estimate of loss of crop on account of drought push the figures to a much lower level than the estimates of the State Governments?

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: How am I to give an opinion on the report of a team? In fact we had sent this team to make a rough assessment of the drought conditions prevailing in these States.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the estimate of the team and the estimates of the State Governments are at variance?

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: I don't have the later estimates of the State Governments. But in fact the team consulted the State Governments in the first instance and then, along with the officers of the State Government they made certain assessments. I don't have any idea about the variance.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: What are the different places they actually visited?

SHRI S. N. MISHRA: They visited three or four States and to indicate all the places to which they went would be somewhat difficult.

PURCHASE OF TOBACCO FROM U.S.A.

*402. SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK (ON BEHALF OF SHRI V. C. KESAVA RAO):

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has agreed to purchase a large quantity of tobacco from the United States of America; and

(b) if so, what is the quantity to be purchased and what is the price at which it is to be purchased?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI N. KANUNGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A quantity of 6 million lbs. (approximately) of unmanufactured tobacco will be purchased (during the three years ending 30th June 1959) by the Indian importers through their agents in America from the open market at the prices prevailing at the time of actual purchase. The estimated price of 6 million lbs. is approximately 6 million dollars.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know for what purpose the tobacco purchased from the United States is put in India?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: It is mostly used for cigarettes and cigars.

SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK: May I know whether the Indian production of tobacco is not sufficient for the internal consumption?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: These varieties are not enough.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: What steps Government are taking to improve the quality of indigenous tobacco?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Efforts are being made for the last 10 years through the Central Tobacco Committee and the quality has considerably improved. Virginia cigarette and cigar tobacco of high quality is being increasingly produced.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: How much time will it take to bring it to the quality that we are importing from foreign countries?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: Hard to anticipate.

SHRI KISHEN CHAND: Is the Minister aware that large quantities of Virginia tobacco are lying with producers in Andhra Pradesh and that efforts are being made by the Government of India to export that tobacco and when that is the situation, why are we permitting imports?

SHRI N. KANUNGO: There are different qualities but these qualities are inferior to the ones imported.

श्री राम सहाय : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि गवर्नमेन्ट की यह नीति नहीं है कि तम्बाकू का कम से कम इस्तेमाल किया जाये ?

श्री एन० कानूनगो . हा, उसी लिये तो जितनी जरूरत होती है उससे कमती इस्तेमाल करना चाहिये।

श्री ब्रज बिहारी शर्मा . क्या यह बात सही नहीं है कि गवर्नमेन्ट तम्बाकू का प्रोडक्शन को डिसकरेज करती है ?

श्री एन० कानूनगो : जी नहीं, इंकरेज करती है।

AMNESTY IN NAGA AREAS

*403. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether any extension of the period of amnesty in the Naga areas has been sanctioned by Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): Yes, Sir; the period of amnesty has been extended.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know since the extension of the period of amnesty how many hostile Nagas have surrendered and how many more are estimated to be still free?

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON: 87 hostiles have surrendered till the 5th December 1957.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know what action Government propose to take against those hostile Nagas who have not yet responded to the offer of the Prime Minister of 25th September?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: That will be considered when the period given to them for surrender has lapsed and in the light of the circumstances then prevailing.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: The question was how many still are rebelling?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says that the period of amnesty has not yet expired. We have to wait till the amnesty expires and then consider the question of those who have not surrendered.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: Is there any truth in the statement that Mr. Phizo, the Naga rebel leader, is in touch with Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose?

SHRI JAWAHARLAL NEHRU: I think Mr. Phizo is still in the land of the living.

SHRI H. D. RAJAH: But this statement was made by the Prime Minister himself.

PLANNING COMMISSION'S PANEL ON HOUSING SCHEMES

*406. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND (ON BEHALF OF MOULANA M. FARUQI): Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has set up a panel to examine the Housing Schemes of Government; and

(b) if so, whether the panel has started its work?