

mer.t in this matter. Whether the State Government's facilities to man a big frontier of that nature are adequate, is a different matter altogether.

*358. LTJie *questioner (Shri Curu-dev Gupta) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2127-29 infra.*]

*359. [*Transferred to the 30th November, 1965.*]

GADGIL COMMITTEE REPORT ON COOPERATIVE FARMING

*360.SHRI K DAMODARAN

SHRI YELLA REDDY

SHRI M. M. DHARIA

Will the Minisler of COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the report of the Gadgil Committee on Cooperative Farming; and

(b) if so, whether Government have considered and taken a decision on the report?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI B. S. MURTHY): (a) Yes Sir. Copies of the Report have already been placed in the Parliament library. A summary of the main recommendations of the Committee is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Copies of the report have been circulated to the State Governments for their views. The main recommendations of the Committee have also been discussed at the recent Conferences of Registrars and State Ministers incharge of Cooperation generally endorsing the recommendations. Fur-

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

ther action is being taken in consultation with the Planning Commission.

STATEMENT

Summary of the main recommendations of the Committee of direction on cooperative farming

(a) *General.*—1. The programme of cooperative farming directed in the main, towards the solution of problems presented by the class of small or "uneconomic" cultivators in the Indian economy. The number of families in the countryside in this class is very large and the area of cultivated land controlled by it is estimated at no; less than 15 per cent, of the total. Programmes as those of technical assistance and of cooperative credit and marketing find the greatest difficulty in serving this class effectively. The land surface controlled by them is, therefore, even less well used than the average and the class suffers from a very high degree of underemployment. Cooperative joint farming by bringing together, under one management, lands held by a large number of uneconomic holders creates a ^nd base on which technically efficient and economic operations become possible.

2. Efficient management of pooled lands implies that the total inout of labour on the cooperative joint farms, for the same types of productive enter-prise, is less than that on scattered individual holdings of which they are composed. The development of poo^l-ed land resources will absorb some labour in the initial stages and if such development results in intensifying agricultural activity, there would be some permanent increase in the level of demand for labour on the cooperative joint farm. Sooner or later, cooperative joint farms even when they succeed in considerably improving the use of pooled lands, find agricultural activity insufficient to employ the pool of. labour in the families composing the membership of the cooperative farming society.

3. The pooling of lands affords an opportunity to the cooperative, the pooling of labour may be said to present it with a challenge. Though initially a joint cooperative farming society is directed mainly towards farming and agriculture, it must as a continuing organisation, be looked upon as a business which is set up with certain pooled resources and which is under compulsion to undertake diversified economic activities for the fuller utilisation of its pooled resources of labour.

4. The potentialities of this form of organisation to solve the problems of small farmers must be widely recognised and a sufficiently large number of groups of such farmers must be encouraged to form, societies and must be carefully guided and assisted in the period of development. Non-official leadership and official technical and financial assistance must work together in this cause.

5. Categories of farmers, other than small holders, may also form joint cooperative farming societies and these may achieve a much better utilisation of pooled resources through joint effort. However, the national programme of cooperative farming is not directed essentially towards these. This is because even as independent units they can achieve a minimum level of efficiency in the use of resources, take advantage of land, participate in national programme of development; and because specially strong efforts and strong motivation are needed to make a success of their joint farming. Moreover, experience shows that in many instances the formation of societies by members of other categories is wrongly motivated. Therefore, it is imperative to frame the programme in such a way as to give the least scope for such opportunities. The scheme of concessions and aid should, therefore, be framed specifically in relation to the needs only of societies of uneconomic holders.

(b) *Leadership*.—6. It is imperative that non-official leadership should take an increasingly active interest in the programme. In particular, the support of non-official leaders of the cooperative movement itself, leaders of political parties (believing in the efficacy of the programme, members of Panchayati raj institutions and constructive social organisations, is essential to create a widespread understanding of the *raison d'être* of the programme and to dispel the doubts arising from hostile propaganda which has not hitherto been countered effectively.

7. In this, the cooperative leadership has a primary responsibility. It should encourage and sustain the programme, so that, by the results achieved and by its own example, it can educate and influence other leaders of opinion towards a fuller understanding of the possibilities of this programme. In particular, the National Cooperative Union of India should crystallise non-official cooperative opinion for this purpose and formulate a programme of action in consultation with the State Cooperative Unions. The National and State Cooperative Union should constitute standing committees for this purpose.

8. Panchayati raj institutions, which play an important role in the preparation and implementation of schemes of rural development should pay particular attention to this programme. Every effort should be made to associate the members of these institutions with the programme.

9. The programme should also draw assistance from constructive social organisations. Leadership of such agencies is particularly valuable when societies are formed by landless labourers. In such cases, the association of such agencies should not only be promotional and educative, but active guidance and assistance should also be provided in the day-to-day working of the societies.

10. In certain areas, the programme of cooperative farming has begun to create its own leadership. For the growth of such leadership, formation of federations of cooperative farming societies at the district and state levels is important. These federations would not only mobilise public opinion, but would also serve to disseminate knowledge of techniques of management and operation. As the programme gathers momentum and the number of district and state level federations increases, a national federation of farming societies may be formed. Such a federation would be necessary by the last year of the 4th Plan.

(c) *Membership.*—11. Attention should be focussed, mainly, on farming societies among small and medium cultivators, as they require the benefits of cooperative activity most. However, the programme need not be confined to any single type of society.

12. Where societies are formed with a heterogeneous membership it is of utmost importance to limit the interest and returns of bigger farmers, through a system of distributing income which fully safeguards the interest of members participating in farm operations.

13. A cooperative farming society should not subserve the interest of a restricted group of families to the detriment of that of other members. However, there appear obvious advantages in drawing members from a similar background, who face similar problems. The danger in such societies is two-fold. They may either be formed to avoid tenancy and ceilings legislation, or, in certain cases, the members of the dominant family or families, may deliberately exclude others from membership.

14. Where the members have lived in independent households and maintained separate cultivating units, they may constitute the unit of membership even though they belong to one family subject to two important safe-

guards. Firstly, under no circumstances, should minors and non-working persons be enrolled merely to fulfil the minimum numerical requirements of registration. Secondly, the number of independent land-owning households, cultivating their units separately, should, at least be the minimum prescribed for the registration of a society. In addition, it is absolutely essential to ensure that attached and landless labourers, who regularly work on the farm, are enrolled to full membership of the society.

15. No change is necessary in the present rule that the number of absentees and non-working members, taken as a group, should not exceed 25 per cent, of the total membership. In this connection, a working member should be considered as one who obtains the major part of his employment on the farm or other activities of the society. Those who engage in farm operations only for a few days, by way of a ritual, should not be considered as working members. Members engaged in supervisory functions should be considered as working members, subject to the condition that the number of members engaged in supervision is not larger than that strictly required for the organisation and conduct of the activities.

(d) *Operational problems.*—16. In the case of societies organised by small land owners, the land base on which the societies operate is frequently very narrow. It is, therefore, necessary that cooperative farming societies operate on a wider and more diversified economic base. This will imply not only a more intensive use of the existing land resources, through suitable changes in cropping patterns, techniques of cultivation and land improvement measures, but in addition, the increasing creation of employment opportunities for members through agro-industries and other allied activities.

17. Before the registration of a society, members should fully understand

the implications of joining together and, in every case, the effort should be to pool fully the lands of members or to have a definite programme of total pooling of holdings within a reasonable time. As an exception, however, in a State like Kerala, where the holdings of members are spread over a wide area and the local terrain makes their complete pooling difficult, the society may decide which plots should be pooled.

18. If, for any reason, the society after registration feels that it is not economic or worthwhile for it to operate or manage a particular plot of land belonging to a member within the general pool, it may make other arrangements for its management. All the pooled lands with a society need not be managed in the same way or administered by one set of persons. The society is the "firm" which controls many pieces of land and other assets. All major decisions regarding those connected with risk bearing, investment and production will be taken by the society; but it may for greater convenience of management split its total business into a number of "plants". Such special arrangement is not to be confused with partial pooling, as in this case, the ultimate directing authority and the bearing of risks is that of the society.

19. In societies where partial pooling has taken place, corrective measures should be applied without delay to pool the remaining land of the members. Societies formed for the development of a particular tract of land, which form merely a portion of the land owned by members in the area of operation of the society, should not be encouraged unless members take a firm decision to pool their remaining land. The actual process of pooling may, however, be phased in a manner which the society, as the firm, considers most appropriate.

20. It is desirable that consolidation of holdings should precede or accompany the organisation of societies.

However, the organisation of societies even under existing conditions leads to a measure of consolidation and represents an improvement on prevailing conditions.

21. In areas where consolidation of land holdings proceedings are being conducted, the cooperative farming society should be recognised as a 'single unit' for purposes of consolidation. Where the existing consolidation laws do not provide for this, they should be suitably amended.

22. The desirable size of a cooperative farm depends upon a number of factors; by and large the standards prescribed by the State Governments have been along the right lines. In certain areas, the societies below the prescribed minimum size were organised. Formation of such societies should be discouraged.

23. For societies to work on a wider economic base, programmes of agro-industries should be considered as an integral part of their activities. The schemes for such activities should be economically and technically viable. Wherever possible, activities undertaken by the societies should be dovetailed with the general schemes of the area. Technical and financial assistance should also be available to the societies from the general scheme.

24. As the limits on rent prescribed under the tenancy laws of the states vary, no uniform or rigid pattern for the payment of a return for ownership of land can be suggested for the country as a whole. However, in no case should the return for ownership exceed the limits prescribed under the tenancy legislation of that State. Further, the income obtained for land should not be larger than the total rent obtained on the eve of the formation of the society, i.e., the return for ownership should be frozen at the initial level in the same manner as rents have been frozen under tenancy laws.

25. In the distribution of the surplus, full regard should be paid to basic cooperative principles. A larger part of the surplus should accrue to members in relation to the extent to which they actively participate in the operations of the society. Relatively lower priority should be given in this matter to the contribution of capital assets. The bulk of the surplus should be paid to members as bonus for work.

(e) *Training and Education.*—26. The proper training of secretaries of societies as also their office-bearers and members is of vital importance to the programme. In the arrangements made for the training of secretaries, greater emphasis should be given, in the existing six-months' course, to job-training in accounts and farm management. Special efforts should also be made to develop a knowledge of improved agricultural practices and skills in allied activities. Where the secretaries of societies have adequate agricultural experience, a short training course of four to six weeks, with special emphasis on accounts and farm management, may be organised.

27. The main responsibility for member-education should devolve on the National and State Cooperative Unions and federations of cooperative farming societies. The Government should, however, make available the necessary financial assistance to them for carrying out this work.

28. The Government and the National and State Cooperative Unions should formulate suitable measures to educate public opinion about cooperative farming.

(f) *Financial Assistance.*—29. A rigid pattern of assistance, unrelated to the size of the farm, the resources of members and specific projects of development has proved unsuitable. To be meaningful, financial assistance should be related to the long-term

plan of development formulated by the society and the resources of members. It should take into consideration the requirements of the society in their totality.

30. A society, particularly of small holders would require assistance, in the initial stages, for promoting and for establishing operations, which will have to be obtained from outside, i.e., in the form of assistance both grants and loans, from Government. On the other hand, an established society will require finances for development and current production and other business needs. All such requirements should be met in the normal manner from appropriate cooperative financing institutions. In addition, there are also a number of specialised agencies, which look after financing of particular activities appropriate to farming societies. It must be ensured that assistance from all such agencies flows to cooperative farming societies speedily and appropriately.

(i) ASSISTANCE UNDER COOPERATION PLAN

(a) *Joint Farming Societies.*—31. The flat rate of Rs. 4,000 per society prescribed under the existing pattern of assistance, which works out to an average of Rs 40 per acre, has proved inadequate. This was so in spite of the fact that a further diversion of the loan component of Rs. 3,750 made for construction of godown-cum-cattle shed was also allowed to be diverted for land development. Assistance for land development should therefore be related to the size of the farm and provided at an average rate of Rs. 100 per acre, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 20,000 per society.

32. No changes are necessary in regard of the quantum of share capital participation by Government (Rs. 2,000) and the extent of managerial subsidy (Rs. 1,200).

33. Whilst the provision of Rs. 5,000, for the construction of the godown-cwm-cattle shed is adequate, such assistance should be given only after an examination of the needs of each society. For purposes of an overall allocation of funds, provision might be made for about 25 percent of the joint farming societies formed.

(b) *Collective Farming Societies.*— 34. As the needs of the collective farming societies are greater both in respect of overall requirements, and investment per acre, assistance for land development may be provided by Government at the rate of Rs. 150 per acre, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 30,000 per society.

35. As these societies are generally in greater need of technical and managerial guidance, which is difficult to be found from within, the societies have generally to draw managers from outside. In view of this, the quantum of managerial subsidy may be raised from Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 2,100 per society, spread over a period of 3 to 5 years.

36. As in these societies difficulties are experienced in raising share capital from members on a matching basis, Government contribution to share capital may be related to the capital subscribed by the members. Subscribed capital may be collected from members in instalments and the Government contribution made as soon as the members have collected and paid 1/10th of the subscribed capital.

37. As most of the co-operative farming societies would need the facility of a cattle shed-cwm-godown, overall provision might be made, at the normal rate, for assisting about 80 per cent of the collective farming societies that are formed. Whilst the outlay for the programme may be calculated on the above lines, the State Governments should assess the requirements of In-

dividual societies and provide resources to them.

(ii) Assistance from other Departments

38. Co-operative farming societies should be treated as single units for purposes of assistance. Existing rules and procedures, if necessary, should be modified without any further delay, where necessary. Intensive efforts should also be made to ensure that the resources of the developmental departments are made available increasingly to co-operative farming societies.

39. Steps such as those taken by Maharashtra Government, to provide co-operative farming societies with departmental resources for soil conservation, construction of community wells etc., should be adopted by other States.

40. For the Fourth Plan, instructions have already been issued that 75 per cent of the overall resources for programmes relating to poultry, piggy and dairying should be earmarked for the co-operative sector. A further reservation should take place, in each State, to see that the requirements of co-operative farming societies are fully met and an integrated approach adopted for the formulation of schemes, providing of technical guidance etc.

41. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission should review its existing procedures and take measures to ensure that the benefits derived by societies in some areas are more widely spread. In certain areas, where a large number of societies have been formed, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission should intensify its activities.

42. Central Co-operative Banks should direct their attention immediately to providing short-term credit to co-operative farming societies according to their production plans.

As short-term credit alone would not be enough, medium term loans should also be provided.

43. The Land Mortgage Banks should provide long-term loans to co-operative farming societies. This will mean, in many cases, amending the bye-laws of primary land mortgage banks.

44. Members of co-operative farming societies may need short-term consumption loans, as also loans over a longer period in order to meet expenses connected with ceremonial and contingent purposes, old debts etc. As far as short-term consumption loans are concerned, the practice suggested to service co-operatives in IA.DP districts should be followed; i.e., loans upto a limit of Rs. 50 per member should be advanced for consumption purposes.

45. As the members pool their entire hind, a method should be evolved to assist them in the repayment of old debts and to meet ceremonial and contingent expenditure. In regard to old debts, it is suggested that, at the time of admission of a member, the society should obtain a declaration of his debts. Where it is possible for the society to secure the scaling down of these debts, this should be done. After this, the society should assist the member in discharging the debt by advancing a loan to him amongst his return for ownership of land and remuneration for work. The loan may be recovered in suitable instalments. Where the debts declared are heavy and not easily repayable, the person concerned should not be admitted to membership. A similar procedure may be adopted by the society for providing loans to members for meeting ceremonial and contingent expenses.

46. As the financing of co-operative farming societies is the legitimate function of the co-operative banking structure, it is necessary for it to work out the exact manner in which this programme can be assisted. For this purpose, it is essential to study further the various practices and pro-

cedures currently followed for issue of short, medium and long-term loans. The All India State Co-operative Banks' Federation should set up a small committee in consultation with the All India Union of Land Mortgage Banks to go into the details of this question as a matter of priority.

(g) *Technical guidance.*—47. The technical staff viz., extension workers of the block, special staff appointed for co-operative farming, staff of various other departments, have a vital role in this programme. The technical and administrative guidance provided to the societies should be adequate and of a high order.

48. At the State level, there should be one whole-time Joint Registrar or Deputy Registrar, who should be assisted by an Officer of the Agriculture Department.

49. In States where 250 or more societies have been formed, state level federations should be formed. These institutions should provide the technical know-how to the societies.

50. In districts where a large number of societies are organised, it would be desirable to provide technical guidance through the district federations of farming societies. Such a federation may be provided with the whole-time services of an agricultural graduate. Action should be taken at the earliest to set up district federations on the lines of the same formulated by the Ministry.

51. At the project level, the special staff for the programme should include one worker of the extension officer rank. In addition, one village level worker should be appointed for each group of 10 societies.

52. At present, no special arrangements exist for non-pilot societies. It is suggested that one village level worker should be posted for every 10 such societies. His headquarters should be located in the light of local conditions.

53. Panchayati Raj bodies, like the Zila Parishads and Panchayat Samitis should also be associated closely with the programme. They should review their problems periodically and resolve their difficulties.

(h) *Allotment of Government lands.* 54. The programme of co-operative farming has immense scope on Government waste lands, surplus lands and lands reclaimed as a result of large irrigation projects. It is essential that Government itself sets an example by encouraging co-operative farming on lands under its control.

55. Wherever Government waste lands are available in compact blocks, forming viable units, these be allotted to cooperative farming societies. In making such allotment the priorities fixed by the State Government in this regard to the various categories of persons entitled to such lands, should be followed.

56. The allotment should be made promptly and the land should be given, on a permanent or long-term basis. It should be ensured that the lands allotted can be cultivated in an economic manner. Failing this, the societies will face the problems of high cost and low returns.

57. Where large tracts of Government lands have been reclaimed as by the Rajasthan Canal and Chambal projects, a sizeable area should be earmarked for cooperative farming. It should be possible to plan and develop such areas as models of agro-industrial enterprise. Similarly, special programmes should be formulated for areas covered by Tungabhadra Project. Early steps should be taken to implement the schemes already prepared for these areas. In areas where resettlement of displaced persons is being undertaken, as in Dandakaranya cooperative farming should be introduced.

58. In Maharashtra, a beginning should be made to introduce coopera-

tive farming on the lands acquired by the State Government as a result of the imposition of ceilings on the holdings of private sugar factories.

(i) *Revitalisation.*—59. The working of stagnant and disintegrating societies should be carefully examined and steps taken to put them on the right lines. As such societies create an adverse reaction all round, this aspect of the programme should receive the closest attention.

(j) *Programme for the Fourth Plan.*—60. The areas of success have been those in which there was a conjunction of favourable circumstances. Having discovered these areas, special attention must be paid to conservation of results achieved and utilisation of the favourable climate for further progress. It should also be possible to find out other areas in which all these factors are present to some extent. A programme of such purposeful selection of areas is recommended for initiating and establishing intensive programmes in the Fourth Plan.

61. At the same time the wider effort needed for promoting the programme need not be stopped. Such effort, if conducted continuously, with discrimination, is likely to yield at least some results in unexpected quarters. Moreover, the work of dissemination of ideology which is of vital importance would be greatly assisted by such widespread effort.

62. The programme is in its infancy and would take another 10—15 years, before a significant impact is made on the country as a whole. It is, therefore, emphasised that results should not be expected hastily and that there are no short cuts to solving the problems of marginal and submarginal cultivators.

63. Most of the successful societies are in the initial stages of their development and special efforts should be made to see that they make continuous progress. The programme in

relation to both the established successful areas and potentially successful areas must be intensive. In these areas, plans for development of each individual society must be drawn up separately, in detail, and financial assistance, technical guidance etc. must be ensured. In such areas, the formation of a further 50 to 60 societies is envisaged.

64. Besides the programme of intensive development, consolidation and reorganisation of the movement along light lines should receive the utmost attention. At present, the programme is under way in about 300 pilot projects. In addition to the reorganisation of those amongst the existing societies which are defective, it should be possible to organise 10 to 15 societies in the pilot projects already selected. With purposeful selection, the programme may be extended to contiguous blocks and other suitable areas in each of which another 10 to 15 societies should be formed over a period of 5 years.

65. The programme of cooperative farming on Governmental waste lands, surplus lands, reclaimed lands etc. will depend largely on the initiative of the Government.

66. In the Fourth Plan, about 10,000 new societies should come into existence, if support and guidance are made available to the programme in the manner outlined in the report.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: In para 54 of this Statement, Sir, it is stated:

"The programme of cooperative farming has immense scope on government waste lands, surplus lands and lands reclaimed as a result of large irrigation projects. It is essential that Government itself sets an example by encouraging cooperative farming on lands under its control."

So, may I know whether the Government is considering to take measures to encourage this form of cultivation as is mentioned in para 54?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: If the answer to my question is "Yes", then may I know . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: It is "Yes".

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Then may I know why government land is being given to joint stock companies coming into the sector of farming? Is there a shift in the policy of the Government?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: That is a separate question, but I would request the hon. Member to help us by seeing that joint farming societies are encouraged.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN: Quite apart from any final decision that the Government might take on this Report, has the Ministry itself studied this Report and is there in that Report sufficient encouragement to push on with cooperative farming on the data available to them?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Yes, Sir. The Ministry has thoroughly studied this Report and it was also discussed in Consultation with the Registrars of Cooperative Societies of the States and also with the Ministers thereof?

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: When the Government is keen to have cooperative farming, may we know why these joint stock companies are being encouraged in this field? May we know the reasons for this?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Joint stock companies are coming forward, saying that they would also participate in stepping up production. They are asking for certain areas so that they could have them on a long lease, in order to produce improved seeds. That is the question and I do not think the Government has already taken any decision about it.

SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: We have learnt from the papers that joint stock companies want to do farming. But the position is that it has been the

declared policy of the Government of India to encourage cooperative farming, that on fallow land and land acquired by the Government at Government expenditure, cooperative farming is to be encouraged. But now such land is being placed at the disposal of joint stock companies. So I want to know whether there is any shift in the policy of the Government, that instead of encouraging cooperative farming, they want to encourage capitalistic farming? Have they come to the definite conclusion that capitalistic farming is the way for us? I want to know what exactly is the position.

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Sir, no policy decision has been taken, as far as I know, to help the joint stock companies. The policy of farming joint societies and encouragement to them is already there. Policies are not easily changed.

SHRI M. R. SHERVANI: In view of the fact that we have accepted mixed economy as our policy, will the Government continue to encourage the co-operative as well as non-cooperative units to produce more food on wasteland?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That will continue as their policy.

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: It is a suggestion for action, Sir.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: The Food Minister made a policy statement a few days ago that the joint stock companies would be helped and encouraged to take up the work of farming. Will the Minister explain as to whether the Food Minister, before making that statement, consulted the Minister of Community Development and Co-operation and also whether the latter concurred with the statement made by the Food Minister?

SHRI B. S. MURTHY: Sir, the Government always functions jointly.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I want to know whether this Ministry was consulted before that policy statement was made.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think he has already replied to that question.

SHRI S. K. DEY: The Government is naturally exercised, because of the acuteness of the food situation, about the methods to be adopted for securing certain essential services required for increasing agricultural production, and one such method is to make improved seeds available. It is being considered in some castes that the joint stock companies may be encouraged to take on some of the Government wasteland on lease for the production of seeds.

MID-TERM ELECTIONS IN KERALA

◆361. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of LAW be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by Government for holding mid-term elections in Kerala; and

(b) whether the delimitation of all Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies has been completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes; Sir. The Delimitation Commission's Order No. 7 published in the Gazette of India as S.O. No. 1610 dated the 7th May, 1964 in respect of the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly constituencies in the State of Kerala was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 4th June, 1964.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: Are we to understand, Sir, that none of the parties either at the all-India level or at the State level, has approached the Election Commission for holding elections in Kerala?