

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: Sir, the Proclamation was approved only recently by both Houses of Parliament. This will be valid for six months and the question of holding fresh elections will come up only towards the end of the six months.

SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA: May I know whether he has come across a news item in the papers during the last three or four days that there is a demand for having a mid-term election in Kerala?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: The Government will consider the demand, if any, at the appropriate time.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: May I know if the attention of the hon. Deputy Minister has been drawn to different statements given out by the Governor of Kerala? May I know further whether the hon. Deputy Minister thinks it desirable that the Governor should be making statements on different occasions regarding the mid-term elections and also whether this is not going to create confusion among the electorate in Kerala if such statements are made by the Governor?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: I have not seen the different statements said to have been made by the Governor. I have seen only one report made by the Governor, which was placed on the Table of the House.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Newspaper reports.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Freedom of expression.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: May I ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that the Governor of Kerala has made a statement to the effect that he would like to relinquish his office before his term expires . . .

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: No one wants to.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: . . . and that he would like to contact his constituency from where he would like to contest the next Lok Sabha election? Is that one of the reasons why mid-term election is to be held in Kerala?

SHRI JAGANATH RAO: No, Sir.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, generally, the ruling Party advises the holding of elections when it best suits it. Is it true that there is now a realisation that the ruling Party can go in and win the election and will the ruling Party consider at least this as a sufficient reason not to delay elections?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sure you do not want a reply.

TONNAGE CLUBS

*362 { SHRI ARJUN ARORA:†
SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY:

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

(a) the number of Tonnage Clubs established in the country;

(b) the help that Government give to each of these Clubs; and

(c) the broad features of their work?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) Two, viz., the National Tonnage Club of Farmers and 3 Tonne Club of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) None, so far.

(c) Main aims of the National Tonnage Club of Farmers are to demonstrate that Indian Farmers can and do produce more than two or three tons per acre of important crops by adopting Scientific methods of Agriculture; to help farmers to organise

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Arjun Arora.

themselves for undertaking modern agriculture on Scientific basis; and to bring together Scientists and farmers for ensuring continual flow of information from Laboratory to the field and back.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know whether the efforts of these Clubs have produced any results anywhere in India?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Sir, these Clubs have come into existence fairly recently and we are confident that they would do some good to the country.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Is there any membership and, if so, what is the total number?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: These are private organisations. They enroll members and the criterion they have fixed is that a man must be a first rate farmer capable of producing about two tons of wheat or three tons of paddy per acre. There are also certain rules and regulations but this being a private organisation the membership is not known.

SHRI N. VENKATESWARA RAO: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that the members of the Three Ton Club at Vijayawada have produced during the last season fifty to hundred per cent. more per acre?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Yes. Sir, I am aware of the fact that some of our farmers who are members of these Tonnage Clubs have done exceedingly well and have produced two tons of wheat per acre and three tons of paddy per acre. They have also produced exceedingly good results in respect of hybrid maize. I hope their example will be followed by others.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: May I request the hon. Minister to supply more information to us about these Clubs and their utility?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: If the hon. Member wants to know the aims and objects, I can tell him. There is also a membership fee . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is some literature available, you could pass that on to them.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: Membership is available at ten rupees.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरङ्गिया :
क्या श्रीमान् यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि इनका जो सम्मेलन अभी थोड़े दिन पहले ही हुआ था इसमें इन्होंने क्या क्या मांगे सरकार को पेश किये और इनके द्वारा जो अनुभव प्राप्त किये गये उनका उपयोग सारे देश के किसानों को मिल सके इसके बारे में सरकार क्या कदम उठा रही है ?

श्री शाहनवाज खाँ : चंद महीने हुए दिल्ली में एक सेमिनार हुआ था और उसमें जो हमारे इंडियन कौन्सिल आफ एग्रिकल्चरल रिसर्च के साइन्टिस्ट्स हैं और इस देश के जो तरक्की याफता किसान हैं वे सब मिल कर एक जगह पर बैठे और इस टनेज क्लब की बुनियाद रखी गई और खास कर मैक्सिकन व्हीट जिसकी पैदावार 2 टन से ज्यादा आई है और तायचुंग पैडी जिसकी पैदावार 3 टन से ज्यादा आई उनके बारे में और हाईब्रिड ज्वार, बाजरा और मेज के बारे में बातचीत हुई और हरेक ने अपने अपने तजूर्बे बताए और हरेक के तजूर्बे हासिल किए गए और उससे फायदा जठाया गया ।

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: May I know as to who is sponsoring these Tonnage Clubs?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN: The general Secretary of the National Tonnage Club is Mr. Pandya, a progressive farmer from Gujarat. The Hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture has kindly agreed to be the President of this Club.