

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: These are the new proposals, the proposals about which I have said earlier. Out of these, 7 proposals for acquisition of 13 trawlers have so far been sanctioned by SCICI new proposals. In case of 9 other proposals wherein all papers are complete, they are being processed at present. There also it will be examined and finance will be given.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I would like to know whether the Ministry is aware that there is a complaint that this newly formed company, SCICI is very liberal towards large shipping companies, large companies which have accumulated loss and arrears of crores of rupees. Whereas they are very strict and miserly towards the fishing companies. I would like to know whether you would give a direction to SCICI to give fishing industry also equal treatment, not only for new fishing companies but also for rehabilitation of the older ones.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: The policy of the Government is to meet the requirements of the fishing industry whether it is big company or small company. But the preference will have to be given to the small people, particularly for small fishing vessels. Their requirements will be fully met and each case will be examined on merit.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: They are giving preference to large shipping companies to finance.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: If there is any instance, you can bring to our notice and action will be taken.

Accident Insurance Scheme

*148. **SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government introduced a Scheme for accident insurance for the poor about two years ago;

(b) if so, whether the Scheme has been implemented and if so, the number of beneficiaries; and

(c) the details about the amount collected as premium and the amount disbursed as claims as on 31st March, 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme for poor families was introduced in the country, in the first phase, in 78 districts with effect from 15.8.1985. The Scheme has been extended, in stages, to 136 more districts raising the total number of districts covered thereunder so far, to 214.

The number of beneficiaries covered under the Scheme, as on 31.3.1987, is estimated to be around 97.2 million.

(c) No amount is collected as premium from the beneficiaries. Government of India bears the entire cost of premium. The amount disbursed as claims as on 31st March, 1987 is Rs. 64.74 lakhs.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Many a time in the villages toddy-tappers may be falling from palmyra trees and the agricultural labourers as well as the marginal farmers who go to the fields die of snake bites and sometimes they will be losing their lives due to flash floods and sometimes due to electrical shocks near the agricultural pumpsets and, sometimes they will be dying due to the collapse of the earth while digging the wells or irrigation canals.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether all these types of accidents which occur in the rural areas resulting in the death of poor people are covered under the scheme.

I would also like to know how many districts are covered under the scheme and which are the districts in Andhra Pradesh covered under the scheme as on 31-3-1987.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: This scheme covers all the accidents including suicide and wherever the accident occurs and it is covered under Motor Vehicles or under any specific Acts where the compensation could be secured, then the scheme will not cover such accidents.

Coming to the implementation part of it, I can tell the hon. Member that so far the number of claims that have been intimated is 3,864 throughout the country and the number of claims paid is 2,158 and I appeal to the hon. Members for the benefit of the House that if they give wide publicity to the scheme in their respective states and about the benefits that accrue to the poor and if the District Collectors are also made to work very effectively, this programme could be implemented in a better way.

So far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, the districts covered are Anantapur, Chittoor, East Godavari, Guntur, Karimnagar, Mahaboobnagar, Visakhapatnam, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Nalgonda, Prakasam, Warrangal, West Godavari, Srikakulam and, recently we have covered some more districts also and I can bring to the notice of the hon. Member for his benefit that the number of claims intimated in the entire Andhra Pradesh is only 668, claims paid 432, claims repudiated 14 and claims outstanding 222.

We have also already issued instructions to take immediate action but if the hon. Members also bring to the notice of the Collectors in their respective States the benefits that accrue to the people, it will be helpful to the Government and we seek the cooperation and coordination of the State Governments in this respect.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: The very fact that the amount disbursed as on 31-3-87 since the inception of the scheme is only Rs. 64 lakhs while the people covered are only 10 crores, itself

speaks of the poor way in which the scheme is functioning in places where it is being implemented.

Since the amount that is disbursed is only Rs. 64 lakhs over a period of one year and 9 months, I feel there should not be any difficulty for the Government to extend the scheme to the whole of the country. I would like to know specifically from the hon. Minister by what date the scheme will be implemented and extended to the other districts which are not yet covered as well as why the Government has not taken adequate steps to see that this scheme is implemented. If the scheme is taken to the notice of the poor people of this country, several poor people will get benefited by this. So, it appears that wide publicity is not given either from the Union Government side or from the State Govt. side. Also, I would like to know as to what steps the Government has proposed to take because it is the Government of India which is paying the premium. I think the Government of India should take adequate steps to propagate this scheme so that the benefit will accrue to the people, in case they make accident insurance. Further, I would like to know the reason for the very long delay that has taken place in the disposal of the pending cases.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: So far as the first part of the question is concerned, in the year 1987-88, we are going to cover 125 districts more. So far as the implementation part of the programme is concerned, more publicity is required. More awareness is also to be brought into the minds of the weaker sections. For that, in some districts, Collectors are very effective and in some districts they have gone to the extent of moving from place to place even to the interior places and identified those poor people who lost their Houses, bread-winners and brought to the notice of the Department and the beneficiaries get the benefits. Here, I request the hon. Members, as I said earlier, if all join together, if we bring it to the notice of the weaker sections particularly whenever we are moving into the interior places, then

if we bring it to the notice of the beneficiaries, definitely it could be implemented in a better way.

Regarding publicity, I have already instructed our Department to give publicity in the media, Doordarshan, Akashvani and in all the media that is available with the Central Government. We assure the hon. Members that that will be more effective. The State Governments should also be more effective in the implementation of this programme.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): May I supplement my distinguished colleague by mentioning that one of the first tasks that I allotted to myself after taking over as Finance Minister was to write to all the Chief Ministers, requesting them to tighten up the administrative arrangements and give publicity to this scheme at the district and block levels. I hope that now we shall have a speedier result. I will personally take a meeting of all the officers concerned so that we can streamline the administration of this scheme. We give utmost importance to this scheme.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister himself has agreed that it is because of the lack of publicity the scheme was not known to many of our people in the entire country. I wish to know whether the hon. Minister is prepared to take the assistance of the voluntary organisations, apart from the publicity to be given, and also assure us that the Government would pay the amounts due to them without any loss of time, if any reputed organisation takes up the matter on behalf of them.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: It is a very good suggestion. We are going to involve the social organisations also. We will see that no delay is there in the disbursement of the amount. We will expedite the disposal of each and every case.

Planning Commission's Suggestion on Growth Process

*149. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI S.M. GURADDI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested that unless certain disquieting trends which have emerged against the backdrop of implementation of the 1986-87 Annual Plan are controlled, the growth process may slacken.

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted this suggestion; and

(c) the efforts being made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. As a result of the 1987-88 Annual Plan exercise, a review of the progress of the implementation of the 1986-87 Annual Plan was undertaken. The review, while taking note of better performance, also brought out certain disquieting trends in relation to financial resources, which required attention of the Government.

(b) and (c). The review was undertaken in association with the Ministry of Finance and other concerned Ministries. Hence, the Government was seized of the emerging issues and the need for adopting suitable corrective measures. While presenting the 1987-88 Budget, the Prime Minister has already indicated the measures in this regard.

SHRI S.M. GURADDI: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what measures he has taken to ensure the successful implementation of this Annual Plan

SHRI SUKH RAM: Some measures have