

40 projects under marginal farmers scheme, in various parts of the country during the fourth plan period. In each project under SFDA a sum of Rs. 1.5 crores would be spent in the Central Sector whereas in the case of a project for marginal farmers, a sum of Rs. 1 crore would be spent. A major part of this outlay is being utilised for land development schemes such as minor irrigation, land levelling Custom service etc.

Conference of State Ministers for Cooperation held at New Delhi

1600. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Conference of State Ministers for Cooperation met at New Delhi on the 24th October, 1970; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the Conference to develop the cooperative movement of the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA) : (a) Yes Sir, The Conference met at New Delhi on the 23rd and 24th October, 1970.

(b) The Conference noted the significant progress recorded by cooperatives and considered various measures to enable cooperatives to provide massive credit support to agricultural development programmes and for expanding infra-structural facilities for supply of inputs, processing, storage and marketing of agricultural products. The need for consolidation and strengthening of the consumer cooperatives in view of their importance in stabilisation of prices was underlined. The Conference laid special stress on effective implementation of various measures already initiated for rationalisation of cooperative structure, streamlining of policies and procedures, improving efficiency of cooperatives, intensifying the programmes for cooperative education and training and development of cooperatives as a well-knit peoples' movement. In particular, the Conference focussed attention on the cooperatives providing ser-

vices and facilities to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the community for income and employment opportunities and on raising the tempo of activities of cooperatives in the eastern region of the country and in Rajasthan where the movement is comparatively weak.

12.02 hrs.

RE : QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up the calling-attention notice.

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा (मधुबनी) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा पायन्ट आफ आर्डर है।

MR. SPEAKER : Point of order on what ?

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा : रूल 25 के मातहत।

MR. SPEAKER : On what subject ?

श्री शिवचन्द्र झा : मैं ने आल इन्डिया रेडियो के खिलाफ एक प्रिविलेज का मामला आप के सामने रखा है.....

MR. SPEAKER : I am sending it to the Department, and as soon as I hear from the Department, I shall consider it, and I shall let the hon. Member know about it.

12.03 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

FOREIGN BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL (Chandigarh) : I call the attention of the Minister of External Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The reported move by the Government of the USSR, Britain and USA to secure bases in the Indian Ocean."