

श्री हाथी : जालेजिस्लेशन बाने वाला है उसमें 10 से ज्यादा जहां भी वर्कर्स काम करते होंगे उनको लागू होगा। यह प्राविडेंट फंड भी उसमें शामिल हो जायगा।

SHRI RAMANI: These tripartite committee recommendations are being much delayed, and the working conditions of the film industry workers are very bad if we compare with other industries. Why is such a long delay taking place? Will the hon. Minister be pleased to say whether it is because the owners' representatives are putting some pressure not to conclude this thing immediately and bring in the legislation, or are they directly putting pressure on the Labour Ministry of the Government of India?

SHRI HATHI: There is no question of any pressure. The first meeting of the committee was held on 19-12-1966. This sub-committee visited various places, Madras, Hyderabad, Bombay, Calcutta etc. Then, some comments have been received recently from the workers' representatives, and they have been circulated, and as I said today is the last day, and we shall see that we expedite the proposals as much as possible.

PROCUREMENT OF KHARIF CROP BY FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA

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*64. **SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:**

SHRI DEIVEEKAN:
SHRI N. ANBUCHZHIAN:
SHRI T. D. RAMABADRAN:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI MAYAVAN:
SHRI ESWARA REDDY:
SHRI D. C. SHARMA:
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH SHASTRI:
SHRI C. MUTHUSAMI:

Will the Minister of **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Corporation of India has made

elaborate arrangements to procure the maximum quantities of foodgrains during the kharif season;

(b) if so, the total target for the procurement of different foodgrains during the season; and

(c) the extent to which foodgrains have so far been procured by the Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Food Corporation of India have tentatively fixed a target for themselves of 37.7 lakh tonnes of kharif grains for purchase in the current kharif season beginning from 1st November, 1967 to 31st October, 1968 and as against this target the Corporation has till the end of January, 1968 already purchased a quantity of about 11.5 lakh tonnes of these grains.

श्री न० कु० साल्वे : क्या यह सच है कि 1966 के अग्रस्त महीने में इस खाद्य निगम ने एक बहुत बड़ी धन राशि वापिस कर दी थी भारत सरकार को, जो उन्हें बतौर कर्ज मिली थी और इसलिए वापिस की गई थी कि यह खाद्य निगम उचित तादाद में अनाज का संग्रह नहीं कर पाया है ?

एक खबर और दें मंत्री महोदय कि इस दरमियान में उन्होंने कौन से आरगेनाइजेशनल रिफार्म्स और चेंजेज किये हैं इस निगम में ताकि अब यह निगम एक सुचारू रूप से व्यापारिक सिद्धांतों पर अनाज का संग्रह कर सके ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: As far as the first part of the question is concerned, it is true that about Rs. 10 crores which was found to be surplus to the requirements of the FCI were returned in August, 1966,

but the requirement of the Food Corporation is much more now, and we have made advances to the tune of Rs. 39 crores to them, and also cash credit facilities to the tune of Rs.40 crores, and even if the Food Corporation wants more money, we are prepared to see that its requirements are fully met. As far as the commercial aspect of the organisation is concerned, it is entirely attuned to work in a commercial and efficient way.

SHRI ANBUCHZHIAN: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any State Government is not able to fulfil its targets for procurement and if so, what financial assistance has been made to induce them?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: The Food Corporation operates as an agency of the State Government, and it is a great help to the State Governments themselves. I do not think any other additional incentive is necessary to the State Government.

SHRI D. C. SHARMA: What has been the overall performance of the Food Corporation of India not only when there is a bumper crop but when we are suffering from deficit also? Is it not a fact that when there is shortage of production in the country, the FCI is helpless, ineffective and disorganised and is unable to do anything?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I am sorry for the views expressed by the hon. Member. The FCI started functioning only three years ago and even during this short period of its existence, it has done commendable work. The procurement campaign is getting on very well and it has procured 11.5 lakh tons till now and in course of time I think it will be able to achieve its target.

SHRI D. C. SHARMA: For God's sake, let my question be answered. It was very simple; it was very specific. What is the performance of the FCI when there is no bumper crop? He is

talking about the present. When we were suffering from food deficit, what did it do?

MR. SPEAKER: He has understood the question now.

श्री रघुवार सिंह का : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि देश के कितने राज्यों में खाद्य निगम के द्वारा प्रोक्वोरमेंट का काम चल रहा है, और क्या कुछ ऐसे राज्य भी हैं जिन में खाद्य निगम को इस कार्य के करने में कुछ कठिनाई आ रही है? साथ ही मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या खाद्य निगम के पास ऐसे प्रबन्ध हैं कि जहाँ बड़ी मात्रा में अनाज प्रोक्वोर किया गया है वहाँ वह ठीक से उसे स्टोर कर सके और उस के स्टोर्स में अनाज में किसी प्रकार की सड़ाद या और प्रकार की कमियाँ न आ सकें?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: At the moment, there are only two States in India where the FCI is not operating. One of them is Maharashtra where the State Government had appointed co-operative agencies as monopoly procurer of foodgrains. The other is Jammu and Kashmir where the Act does not apply. The FCI is operating more or less in the rest of the country.

Attention is being paid to the provision of storage facilities. There is even now considerable storage facility with the Warehousing Corporation and with the FCI also. The co-operative sector also has to provide space for 75,000 tons in Punjab by the end of May.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: It is said that about 8—10 per cent of the foodgrains is lost while it is stored or transported. The Government is making elaborate arrangements for procurement of grains. Has it considered making equally good arrangements for transporting these grains without wastage and also protecting these foodgrains while in storage against pests and rodents?

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA: May I know whether the farmers have complained about the delay in payment by the Food Corporation for the foodgrains that are being procured from them?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: To my knowledge, there are no complaints, but the Food Corporation has evolved an elaborate system for making quick payments to the farmers.

DR. RANEN SEN: Is it known to the Government of India that the Food Corporation of India working in West Bengal is not able to procure even a fraction of the target which was expected of the Food Corporation of India to procure in West Bengal due to the pro-boarder policy of the illegal Ghosh Ministry, and, if so, what is the step taken by the Government of India to see that the Food Corporation of India is able to procure adequate amounts of foodgrains in West Bengal to feed the people of West Bengal?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: If the hon. Member's party co-operates with the Government of West Bengal, I am quite sure that the Food Corporation will succeed in reaching the procurement targets in Bengal.

DR. RANEN SEN: Sir, this is an aspersion on our party. The point is that the United Front has openly offered its services for the procurement of foodgrains, but the illegal Ghosh Ministry has not made any effort to procure any foodgrains through the Food Corporation and the Government of India is sitting quiet over the whole matter.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a difference of opinion about the legality and illegality. He does not accept that portion and you do not accept the other portion.

श्री भवु त्रिभये : मंत्री जी ने एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा कि फूड कारपोरेशन महाराष्ट्र

और काश्मीर में कोई कार्रवाई नहीं कर रहा है, इस लिये कि काश्मीर में यह कानून लागू नहीं है और जहाँ तक महाराष्ट्र का सबाल है, वहाँ अनाज की खरीद एकाधिकार के सिद्धान्त पर की जा रही है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या वह सदन को बतलायेंगे कि जहाँ महाराष्ट्र में 53 २० क्विंटल के हिसाब से ज्वार खरीदी जाती है और ग्राहकों को 69 २० क्विंटल के हिसाब से बेची जाती है, यानी एक क्विंटल पर 16 २० का फर्क हो जाता है, वहाँ फूड कारपोरेशन द्वारा जो अनाज खरीदा जाता है वह ग्राहकों को किस दाम पर बेचा जाता है, दोनों में जो फर्क है क्या उस के बारे में वह सदन को अवगत करावेंगे ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: As far as the issue price in different areas is concerned, I will require notice, because the issue prices in different States differ from place to place.

श्री भवु त्रिभये : महाराष्ट्र में जो 30 प्रतिशत का फर्क या मार्जिन है उसको आप पसन्द करते हैं ? क्या आप चाहते हैं कि इतना रहे ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: As far as the question pertaining to procurement in Maharashtra by co-operatives is concerned, I will try to get the information from the Maharashtra Government.

श्री भवु त्रिभये : यह आप नहीं जानते हैं कि सोलह रुपये का फर्क है ? आप तो काफी अध्ययन करने वाले आदमी हैं। आप तो महाराष्ट्र से आते हैं।

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: It is presumed that the Food Corporation of India by now have made a general survey of food production in the country and have collected reasonable statistics to enable them to make forecasts about the food situation in

the country in the coming year. I would like to know whether there will be famine this year also in some states and if so what are those States?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: How does it arise out of this? This is about procurement.

श्री राज चरण : मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया है कि आने वाली फसल में अधिक गल्ला फूड कारपोरेशन खरीदने जा रही है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या फूड कारपोरेशन के पास इतने गल्ले को स्टोर करने की कैपेसिटी है? क्या इसका रखने के लिए उसके पास अच्छे गोदामों की व्यवस्था है? क्या यह गल्ला आपन में तो नहीं पड़ा रहेगा और उस पर डस्ट पड़ती रहेगी?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I have already replied to it.

MR. SPEAKER: The more supplementaries I allow, greater is the repetition and we are losing the chance of taking up other questions.

श्री भष्म सिंह : नया पूछते हैं तो कहते हैं कि हम जानते नहीं हैं।

श्री रण शेर सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि बेचारे गरीब किसान ने क्या जुर्म किया है? एक तो उसे गल्ला ठीक मूल्य पर प्रोक्योर नहीं किया जाता जिससे गल्ले की कीमत देश में कई जगह कम हो गई है। दूसरे उसके ऊपर यह बैन लगा दिया है कि गल्ले की मूवमेंट वह नहीं कर सकता। आपने उसको बन्द करके रख दिया है। उसको डबल नुकसान हो रहा है। या तो आप प्रोक्योर करें और ठीक कीमत उसको दें या फिर उसके गल्ले को बेचने के लिए उसको दूसरी स्टेट्स में भी मुहलत दें ताकि उसे ठीक कीमत मिले।

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: It has been already said that we are prepared to buy any quantity of food-grains at the procurement price that 3126(Ai) LSD—2.

may be offered. As my hon. friend knows, the season for the cultivators to bring their stock to the market, especially wheat, will be next month and April when they will know the prospects of the new crop. We are making arrangements for that. I have repeatedly said that I will not permit prices to go below the procurement level.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU: Arising from the minister's statement that excepting Kashmir and Maharashtra, the Food Corporation is operating, I would like to know the justification for two agencies—the State agency and the Food Corporation. I would also like to know the difference in cost of procurement between the two agencies. I would also like to know why these different costs should pile up on the prices, which is very unfair to the consumer on the one side and which is also unfair to the producer on the other side.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: As far as the margins of cost by the Food Corporation are concerned, the Food Corporation is operating within reasonable costs. The administrative cost hardly comes to 1 per cent. The rest are mandi charges, transport charges, etc., I am prepared to give all these details to the House.

SHRI LOBO PRABHU: Why two agencies? Give some explanation to that.

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR: It is stated that 73 per cent of the needs of the rationed areas are met from imports.

श्री लोबो प्रभु : आपकी दृष्टि को खींचने के लिए क्या करना पड़ेगा? बीस बार मैं खड़ी हुई हूँ लेकिन मुझे अभी तक सवाल पूछने का मौका नहीं मिला है।

MR. SPEAKER: You will have to sit down.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मीकान्तम्ना : जो बाद में खड़े हुए उनको आपने मौका दे दिया है, उनको बुला लिया है लेकिन मुझे नहीं बुलाया है।

MR. SPEAKER: Unfortunately I do not know so much of Hindi. If she speaks in Telugu, I will be able to understand.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मीकान्तम्ना : हिन्दी में बोलने का मैं ने निर्णय ले रखा है।

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR: To stop the import of foodgrains from abroad, we must be able to meet the needs of the rationed areas out of the procurement. May I know why the procurement target is so low? Is it limited by the finance of the Government or the Food Corporation or by the capacity of the staff of the Food Corporation?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: In reply to the question I only mentioned the target of Food Corporation and not the all-India target. The target for all India is much higher because the State Governments are also procuring on their own account.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Has the attention of the Minister been drawn to the public statements made by the official spokesman of the Food Corporation of India to the effect that their procurement operations in West Bengal are being hampered by the fact that the price at which they are authorised to purchase is considerably lower than the price which big merchants and traders are being permitted to offer in the open market; if so, may I know whether the Government has taken any steps in the interest of procurement to advise or direct the State Government to see that, instead of relaxing all levies, price controls and cordons and everything as they have done, they take steps to see that prices in the open market are not allowed to run

away in this fashion so that official procurement is being completely sabotaged?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: In the case of West Bengal I myself had been there recently. The West Bengal Government is trying to see that procurement is made.

AN HON. MEMBER: But there is no Government.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: But the point is, I must submit, there is so much of instability, as I have mentioned and my hon. friends over there are not co-operating. If all the parties concerned co-operate, I am quite sure that the prices will be at a reasonable level and procurement will also succeed to a considerable extent.

DR. RANEN SEN: It is a hoarders' government that is sitting in West Bengal (Interruption).

श्री श्री. र. लाल बेरवा : राजस्थान के बारे में भी एक प्रश्न की इजाजत दी जानी चाहिये।

अध्यक्ष : होदय : कछवाय साहब को मौका मिलेगा।

श्री प्रेम चन्द वर्मा : फूड कारपोरेशन को तमाम केन्द्र शासित प्रदेशों में जिन में हिमाचल प्रदेश भी है, खरीफ फसल का कितना किनना अनाज प्रोक्योर करने का टारगेट दिया गया था और किन किन केन्द्र शासित प्रदेशों में वह टारगेट पूरा हुआ है? जहाँ पर नहीं हुआ वहाँ कितना कम रहा है

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I will require notice.

श्री हुसैन अहमद कछवाय : खाद्य निगम मंडियों के अन्दर किसानों से अनाज खरीदता है। क्या यह सही नहीं है कि पैसे का भुगतान तत्काल किसानों को नहीं किया जाता है, काफी विलम्ब से उनको पैसा दिया जाता है, दो तीन महीने

के बाद किया जाता है? क्या यह भी सही नहीं है कि इस से काश्तकारों को काफी परेशानी का सामना करना पड़ता है? क्या यह भी सही है कि इस कारण से काश्तकार मंडी में खाद्य निगम को अनाज बेचने में असमर्थ रहते हैं?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I have already replied to this question that elaborate rules have been framed for making quick payments as far as possible. Payments are made within 48 hours.

श्री हुकूम चन्द कछराव: नियम का पालन नहीं हो रहा है। दो तीन महीने में जो भुगतान किया जाता है उसके उदाहरण मैं आपको दे सकता हूँ।

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I am prepared to look into that.

श्री सैता राव केशरी: अभी बतलाया गया है कि पंजाब में जब भाव कम था तब निगम ने परचेज करना शुरू किया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब खाद्य निगम ने खरीद शुरू की तो क्या वहाँ भाव नहीं बढ़े? यदि हाँ, तो भावों को संतुलित रखने के लिए क्या कोई योजना आपके पास है?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I do not think.....

SHRIMATI LAKSHMIKANTHAMMA: बीस बार मैं खड़ी हुई हूँ लेकिन मुझे मौका नहीं मिला है। Sir, I am going to walk out.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, yes, you can. Nobody can prevent you from walking out.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMIKANTHAMMA: I stood up at least 25 times.

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody can stop you. Do not disturb the House.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMIKANTHAMMA: Because of my speaking in Hindi you are doing this. I do not care.

(Shrimati Lakshmikanthamma then left the Chamber)

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: In Punjab:....

SHRI NATH PAI: We welcome it.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE:foodgrain prices are affected either way.

SHRI UMANATH: I hope, Shri Venkatasubbiah will take note of that.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: In fact in Punjab there is a demand that the Food Corporation should operate more effectively. They are trying to see that as much food as possible is mopped up by the Food Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

SHRI HEM BARUA: For the first time there was an agitation against the hon. Speaker by a lady Member. That is a welcome thing.

MR. SPEAKER: It is my misfortune. I have missed calling Shri Barua though he had been getting up from the very beginning. So many hon. Members I could not call. Unfortunately I cannot call all of them together; I can call them only one by one.

SHRI P. G. SEN: Sir, we on this side feel the difficulty every time.

MR. SPEAKER: No, Shri Verma, Shri Oraon, Shrimati Sushila Rohtagi from that side asked a question. I think, four or five of them asked a question.

SHRI P. G. SEN: We also have been elected.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Supakar asked a question. Four or five of them from that place asked a question. But every Member thinks that he is neglected. It is very unfortunate. The hon. Member thinks that he is the whole bench, that in the whole bench he alone matters.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

INCREASE IN PRICES OF FOOD-GRAINS

*65. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of foodgrains have registered an increase following the withdrawal of food subsidy; and

(b) if so, the steps which have been taken to bring down the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE):

(a) The Issue prices of foodgrains were revised w.e.f. 1st January, 1968. The All-India index number of foodgrains showed some rise during the first two weeks of January. This can be largely attributed to the impact of the increased issue prices of imported foodgrains on the All-India index number. However, from the third week of January, 1968, prices of bajra and maize again tended to decline and those of wheat from the last week of January, 1968. In the case of Jowar, prices showed a decline throughout the month of January, 1968.

(b) In view of the declining prices of foodgrains, the situation is being watched and action will be taken as and when necessary.

RATIONING IN FOODGRAINS

*66. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO:
SHRI Y. A. PRASAD:
SHRI BADABRATA BARUA:
SHRI D. N. DEB:
SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH
STASTRI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the State Governments propose to lift rationing of foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether the States have consulted the Central Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE):

(a) The Governments of U.P. and West Bengal have withdrawn statutory rationing of foodgrains from the towns of Kanpur and Siliguri respectively. Proposals for derationing have not been received from any other State Government so far, except from the Delhi Administration in respect of indigenous wheat only.

(b) The Government of West Bengal did not consult the Central Government about derationing Siliguri, while the Government of U.P. gave prior information to the Central Government of their proposed step in this respect.

(c) So long as the public distribution system is not disturbed and Government's responsibility in that respect is fully maintained, it is for the State Government to decide the type of distribution whether statutory or informal rationing in any particular area.