

LOK SABHA

Thursday, March 13, 1969 (Phalgun) 22, 1890
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Central Farms during Fourth Plan

*451. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to establish more central farms during the Fourth Five Year Plan ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). In addition to the existing Farms in Rajasthan, Orissa, Punjab and Haryana, two more Farms are likely to be set up shortly. One of these farms is proposed to be set up in the Raichur District of Mysore and the other in the Cannanore District of Kerala. Whether any more farms should be set up in the Fourth Five Year Plan period is still under consideration.

SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : For establishing these big farms a large extent of land is required and hundreds of small farmers are put out of employment. What are the measures taken by the Government to see that they get alternative employment and also land ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : First of all we consult the State Government. If they are keen on having a State farm in their own State then we process the case. All these

cases were started or processed further on the initiative of the State Government. Secondly, as far as possible, the lands which are not under cultivation are taken up for these State farms so that there is no problem of unemployment. If there is any unemployment caused in these cases I shall pass on a suggestion to the State Government concerned that they should be given alternative employment and also land.

SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : I am told the Government is establishing a farm in Raichur District in Mysore State. A large area of land has been acquired for this but it is still lying fallow or uncultivated. The result is, the farmers are deprived of their usual cultivation and the Government also are not making use of it. Simply because there is support from the Russian Government to the extent of Rs. 25 lakhs, is it fair for the Government to deprive small farmers of their small holdings ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : As I have already explained, the intention is not to deprive small farmers of their holdings. Also, I repeat so that there may not be any misunderstanding on this score, most of the lands taken for this are fallow. In some places lands were given on temporary lease to farmers. If any unemployment results in that process that will be taken notice of. As far as Mysore is concerned, only last year acquisition proceedings started. As soon as we get possession of the land cultivation will be started.

SHRI M. N. NAGHNOOR : May I know what has been our experience in the past on these central farms ? Are they self-sufficient ? Secondly, may I know whether it will be in the interest of economy and efficient management to hand over these central farms management by the State Governments ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It is not the intention at the moment to hand over

these farms to the State Government. The basic change that has been made is, so far the farms were being managed by the Central Department of Agriculture. We have taken a decision that a commercial approach is necessary. We are having a Corporation. It will start functioning after the Budget is passed—probably it will start in the month of May. The purpose of these farms is to meet the seed requirements of the State Governments.

SHKI P. GOPALAN : I understand that it is more than a year since a final decision has been taken for the location of a State farm with Soviet assistance at Aralam in Kerala. But even now the work has not started. There is a rumour in the air that some interested parties have started a move for the shifting of this farm to some other place. In view of this I would like to know from the Government what is the actual hurdle that stands in the way of starting this farm? Can the Minister give a categorical assurance that under no circumstance the location of this farm will be changed?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I am sorry, the hon. Member always looks at the problems with suspicion; in fact, there is no intention whatsoever to change the site of the farm. The delay is due to the fact that in the initial stage there was an understanding between the Kerala Government and ourselves that land will be acquired at the rate of Rs. 250 an acre and if any additional expenditure is there the State Government should incur that expenditure but the Kerala Government, due to one reason or another, is not taking a position on this issue. Because of that, matters are being delayed and not at all due to any fault of the Centre.

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : श्री मन्त्री महोदय ने कहा कि 250 रुपये पर एकड़ उस के दिए जाएंगे तो मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो बहरी के काननकारों की जमीन ली जायगी उस की कीमत वहाँ क्या है और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट का कितना एक्सपेंडीचर इन दोनों फार्मों पर होगा? इन में कोई शेयर प्रावि-
स्तावन गवर्नमेंट का भी होगा या किसी विदेश

से भी इस का सम्बन्ध है जैसे सूरतगढ़ में रशियन कॉलैबोरेशन से भ्राप मशीनरी बगैरह लगा रहे हैं तो यहाँ भी किसी विदेश से भ्राप मदद ले रहे हैं और उस की मदद से भ्राप यह फार्म चनाना चाहते हैं? क्या यह भी सही है कि सूरतगढ़ फार्म लास पर रन कर रहा है?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : These farms would be Central farms. As I have already mentioned earlier, it is well known that Russian assistance to the tune of about Rs. 31 lakhs would be available to each of these farms in the form of machinery etc. The Russian Government promises to give assistance to the five farms and the Kerala farm is one of them. As far as the point raised by the hon. Member about the Suratgarh Farm is concerned, the Suratgarh Farm earned a profit of Rs. 49 lakhs last year and of Rs. 18 lakhs to Rs. 19 lakhs a year earlier.

श्री श्रीकार लाल बेरवा : श्रीमन्, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि बूंदी में हरिजनों को अनुदान में दी हुई जमीन पर राजस्थान के स्वास्थ्य मन्त्री ने कब्जा कर के फार्म बना लिया है, क्या इसकी सूचना भ्राप के पास है? भ्रागर नहीं है तो क्या भ्राप उस की सूचना मंगा कर और जो कार्यवाही करें उसे सभा-पटल पर रखने का कष्ट करेंगे और उन हरिजनों को वापस जमीन दिलाएंगे?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : How does it arise out of this question? Hon. Members are responsible Members and they should not bring up unrelated questions.

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR : From personal experience of the Orissa farm, which happens to be in my constituency, I know that many small cultivators are displaced from their farms and they do not get any employment on those farms. Also, in the particular case of the Orissa farm, I know that the lands of these people were acquired long ago and they were under the impression that the land would be leased out to them from year to year. Now when they are sought to be displaced no alternative arrangement for their rehabilitation is made.

This is under the exclusive management of the Central Government. May I know what steps the Government have taken in the case of those small farmers so far as the Orissa farm is concerned? May I also know whether all the people who have been displaced by now or some of them are given the lease of a portion of those lands?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I have already explained the position as far as the small farmers are concerned. We shall give priority for their employment here.

SHRI SRADHAKAR SUPAKAR : But that is not given.

श्री शिवचरण लाल : मैं मन्त्री जी से जानना चाहूँगा कि जो सरकारी फार्मों में बीज तैयार होता है या हो चुका है वह किसानों को सस्ते भाव में दिया जायगा, ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The raising of seeds is a highly technical subject. If it is big farm, the farm can maintain highly technical staff, breeders, genetists etc., so that the seed is made available to the State Government. At what rate it should be available is beyond the purview of this question.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA : These farms of Central Government and of State Governments also are carrying on experiments on better seeds and better agricultural ideas. But these farms are, more or less, conducted in a very sophisticated manner. The small farmers are never called; they are never associated with these farms. May I know whether the hon. Minister will take proper steps in these matters and see that small farmers are called there or the officers conducting these farms go round the villages and enlighten them about these measures. What is the policy of the Government in this regard?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It is a suggestion for action.

श्री बीटा लाल मीना : मन्त्री महोदय ने बताया है कि सूरतगढ़ फार्म में अब मुनाफा होने लगा है। राजस्थान के रेगिस्तान में सभी ऐसे

बहुत से इलाके हैं जहाँ जमीनों में घग्गूर की खेती की जा सकती है। क्या सरकार इन इलाकों के बारे में विचार करेगी या तो सरकार खुद इस तरह के बड़े फार्म खोलने जिनमें घग्गूरों की खेती की जा सके या किसानों को इस ढंग से प्रोत्साहित करे कि वे बड़े बड़े फार्म खोल कर घग्गूर या दूसरी चीजों की खेती करें ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : It is not required.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : These farms, though started with the best of intention to educate the farmers in the latest methods of agricultural production and also improving the agricultural machinery, have often been converted into a sort of farms having methods and techniques which no middle-class farmer with limited means is able to adopt with the result that it is frustrating the very purpose for which these farms were started. I am glad the hon. Minister has said that they are trying to give a commercial touch to these farms. In this context, may I know from the hon. Minister whether these factors will be taken into account to see that whatever agricultural techniques are adopted in these farms must be made to be used by the farmers who could get benefited from them not with an enormous cost but with the limited means available to them?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I have explained already that these farms are seed farms and they are meant to raise seeds for meeting the requirements of the State Governments. But, of course, if some practices are likely to be useful to farmers, we are not averse to these ideas.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Gunanand Thakur.

SHRI S. KUNDU : These are not only the seed farms. They also produce other things. The question which he asked was about farmer-orientation of farms. The poor farmers cannot utilise big tractors, big machines and all that

MR. SPEAKER : I have not called him.

SHRI S. KUNDU : Kindly get that point clarified.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Venkatasubbaiah is satisfied with the answer.

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार बड़े बड़े फार्मों की स्थापना करती है, जिनका अधिकांश लाभ बड़े बड़े किसानों को या यों कहिये गांव के बड़े बड़े जमीन-मालिकों, जमींदारों को मिलता है। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार छोटे छोटे चार, पांच या दस एकड़ के किसानों की कोऑपरेटिव बनाकर उन फार्मों को सहयोग देने के लिये, उन लोगों को सुविधा पहुंचाने के लिये, कोई ठोस कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

दूसरे—चूंकि यह देश कृषि प्रधान देश है, यहां खेती की पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिये फार्म बनाना एक इन्सेन्टिव हो सकता है, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार कृषि क्षेत्रों में, खास कर उत्तर बिहार के विकास क्षेत्रों में बड़े पैमाने पर इन फार्मों की स्थापना का कोई विचार रखती है, यदि हाँ, तो इस सम्बन्ध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है।

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : If the intention of the hon. Member is to ask whether Government is going to have a State farm in Bihar, that is under consideration. No final decision has been taken in regard to that. In regard to the establishment of co-operative farms, they do not come under this scheme. The hon. Member can put a separate Question on that.

श्रीमती सुशीला रोहतगी : यह निर्विवाद बात है कि कृषि के उत्पादन के लिये अच्छे बीज की आवश्यकता है और इस लिये फार्म बनाये जा रहे हैं। लेकिन जब भी ऐसे फार्मों के लिये भूमि अर्जित की जाती है, उस से लोगों की बेकारी और बेघरबारी ज्यादा बढ़ती है। क्या सरकार विचार करेगी कि इन फार्मों के लिये भूमि तभी अर्जित की जाय, जब वास्तव में फार्म शुरू किया जाय, न कि तीन-चार

साल पहले लेकर लोगों को बेघरबार कर दिया जाय ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I have made this point earlier.

Report of the Minimum Wage Advisory Committee for Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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*452. **SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN :**
SHRI K. ANIRUDHAN :
SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :
SHRI GANESH GHOSH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 671 on the 14th November, 1968 and state :

(a) whether the Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has since examined the report of the Minimum Wages Advisory Committee for Andaman and Nicobar ;

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon ;

(c) if not, when the examination is likely to be completed ; and

(d) reason for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) The report of the Committee is still under the examination of the Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The Administration has been requested to take a decision in the matter without further delay.

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN : The Minimum Wages Committee submitted its report in December, 1967. A reply was given to us on the 25th April, 1968, that it was under the consideration of the Administration. Again on 25th July, 1968, they gave the same reply. Again on 17th November, 1968, the same reply was given. Now also they are giving the same reply. May I know what is the reason for the delay ?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : The Committee submitted its report on 4th