

Shri Raj Bahadur: The terms of reference, as the hon Member knows, are well known, they are, pay-scales, allowances, conditions of service, of the workers in the port and in the dockyards, holidays, etc

Mr Speaker: The hon Member wants to know the terms of reference that are to be covered in the final report, the manner in which they will be proceeded with, in the course of the second stage, etc

Shri Raj Bahadur: I have already explained my difficulty I can only say that I presume that the Committee on which Shri Chaudhuri functioned went into certain items of a more urgent type and produced an interim report and those recommendations are now under consideration. The other matters which have been referred to the Committee after the final report is made. Before that, it will not be possible or desirable for me to say anything specifically about these recommendations.

Shri Ranga: In view of the fact that already there has been go-slow by the workers at the ports, do Government consider the desirability of short-circuiting as far as possible all those long processes of examination, consultation, consideration and all that, and avoid the repetition of the P & T cases?

Shri Raj Bahadur: So far as we are concerned we know that the committee first of all wanted the port labour to put their views as far back as 8th December, but unfortunately, the views came to the committee only as late as 9th April from one union and then by the end of May from the other stevedors association. We should say that the committee lost no time and they produced the interim report on the 5th July. I think we shall have to take some reasonable time for examining it. So, we have lost no time so far as this particular case is concerned.

Control on Foodgrains

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935. { **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:**
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Pandit D. N Tiwary:
Shri R. S Lal:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the last National Development Council's meeting, some of the Chief Ministers favoured some kind of control on foodgrains, and

(b) if so, the suggestions made by them and the reaction of the Union Government?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A M Thomas): (a) and (b) The question of food controls was discussed in the last meeting of the National Development Council and the general consensus of opinion of the State Governments was against the introduction of controls such as total rationing and large scale monopoly procurement. They, however, recognised the need for some control on movement and for internal procurement in surplus areas. The Government of India have accordingly introduced certain Zonal restrictions on movement and have also started some internal procurement.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In view of the fact that the hon Deputy Minister went to Patna and decided in consultation with the Bihar Government to have partial control of wheat, does that mean that the Government henceforward is going to have strategic control in the country wherever there is scarcity?

Shri A. M. Thomas: What was decided at Patna was that in the urban areas, there was no systematic distribution in the fair-price shops at all. So, family identity cards will be issued and the quantity will be fixed based on the strength of each family. That will be distributed through fair-price shops.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: I want to know whether this system which

has been introduced in Patna will be introduced in other places in the country also, where such scarcity conditions prevail.

Shri A. M. Thomas: A sort of modified rationing exists in West Bengal, for example. Our idea is to introduce this card system and distribute wheat and rice through the fair-price shops.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha rose.

Mr. Speaker: The other hon. Members who tabled the question must also rise. If I go on allowing one single Member to put the supplementaries I will not call upon other hon. Members unless they rise in their seats simultaneously.

Shri Ranga: The hon. Member has tabled the question and she is rising.

Mr. Speaker: The others also must rise simultaneously. I cannot go on allowing 4 or 5 questions to a single hon. Member. After that, some other hon. Member will get up and say, "My name also is there". **Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha.**

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In view of the fact that many of the State Governments expressed the opinion in the National Development Council that the fixation of a minimum price, that means any price policy, at this moment would not be desirable either in the interests of the cultivators or in the interests of the efforts at stabilising the price, may I know what is the decision of the Government of India in regard to the price policy.

Shri A. M. Thomas: In regard to the price policy, we have already announced our decision that at present we are not going to fix either a lower ceiling or an upper ceiling. But that may be necessary when we resort to large-scale procurement.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): An assurance has been given to the country that when prices go to uneconomic levels, Government would come to the aid of the agriculturists.

Shri Heda: May I know whether Government have taken into consideration the fact that the introduction of partial control will create a sort of scarcity in near-scarcity areas also, so that sphere of distribution may have to be increased?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The problem we have to face is the problem of high prices. We have resorted to several methods to face this problem. We have resorted to distribution through fair-price shops, credit facilities, zonal arrangements and procurement of foodgrains.

Shri Ranga: Is not all this policy that is being pursued by Government 'regulation' and not 'control'?

Shri A. M. Thomas: If my hon. friend is thinking of control with all its attending characteristics, it is not control; it is only regulation.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या सरकार शहर के सभी आदमियों को खाना देगी ? शहरों में ऐसे आदमी रहते हैं, जिन की देहात में बहुत जमीन रहती है, जहां वे गल्ला रखते हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि उन के बारे में सरकार क्या सोच रही है।

प्रधानमंत्री तथा वैदेशिक कार्य मंत्री (श्री जवाहर लाल नेहरू) : यह सवाल कहां से उठा, यह मरी समझ में नहीं आया। यहां कोई भंडारे नहीं खुल रहे हैं।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : स में लिखा है कि हम शहरों के लिए कंट्रोल कर रहे हैं। मैं प्रधान मंत्री जी को बताना चाहता हूं कि यह सवाल इसलिए उठा कि पटना में बहुत से आदमी रहते हैं, जो कि हमारे जिले में और दूसरी जगहों में जमीन रखते हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या ऐसे लोगों को भी राशन से खाना मिलेगा या उनको वंचित किया जायगा।

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू : इस में राशन का सवाल नहीं है। माननीय सदस्य गलत फ़हमों में हैं।