

control programme. May I know whether any of the schemes framed under this national T.B. control programme have been extended to Orissa?

Shri Karmarkar: Yes, Sir; we have put up various proposals. Firstly, B.C.G. campaign is going on satisfactorily in Orissa. Secondly, we have been helping non-official centres—we have given Rs. 3 lakhs during last year and the year before that to a T.B. institution in Orissa.

Regarding the other point, I think my hon. friend perhaps refers to the National T.B. Survey which was a sample survey. I am not sure whether parts of Orissa were actually surveyed. But there were representative patches of the country which were taken up for survey purposes. We shall be happy to help Orissa and the other States in all possible manner to the extent possible.

Shri Panigrahi: May I know how many T.B. demonstration training centres and the T.B. isolation beds and After care and Rehabilitation centres have been set up in Orissa during the second Five Year Plan period so far?

Shri Karmarkar: About all those items I should like to have notice. With regard to this point, Orissa has not asked for it. So we cannot give it.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: Is the hon. Minister aware that there was a proposal to set up an After-care and Rehabilitation centre in Delhi at the site of the present Kingsway Camp which was enthusiastically taken up by his predecessor, and may I know what progress, if any, has been made with regard to that scheme?

Shri Karmarkar: I should like to have notice with regard to that scheme. But the scheme that has been now finally approved of is the one to be run in association with the New Delhi T.B. Centre, so far as Delhi is concerned, at an estimated cost of Rs. 3 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 1 lakh recurring. I understand that the building plans for the centre are being scrutinised.

12 hrs.

Mr. Speaker: We shall now take up the Short Notice Question.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Fair Price Shops in Delhi

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S.N.Q. No. 4. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee:**
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Vajpayee:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that at present only 27 out of 600 Fair Price Shops are functioning in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons for the non-functioning of these shops;

(c) whether the rate in fair price shop is Rs 14 per maund as compared to Rs. 17 or Rs. 18 in the market; and

(d) if so, steps taken by Government to restart these fair price shops to ease the situation?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) No, Sir, there are at present no fair price shops in Delhi.

(b) to (d). As Delhi can get supplies of wheat freely from Punjab where the prices are lower than in other States, there is no need for continuing the fair price shops in Delhi at present.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether these 27 fair price shops were functioning even before a week, and may I know the reason why these shops have been closed down?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The entire thing was considered in the context of the overall food situation. The question was whether the issue of wheat from the Government stock should be continued in Delhi. It was considered in the context of the formation of the Northern Wheat Zone which was formed some time back. There was practically no offtake after inclusion of Delhi in the Zone. First, the number of shops was reduced. There was a distribution of about 9,000 maunds

per week through the Delhi Grain Distributing Co-operative Society. We reduced it to a thousand maunds per week, and there was no appreciable effect because of the reduction on the market.

The House will notice that the prices prevailing in Delhi will be about Rs. 16.25 whereas the price prevailing in the neighbouring State of Uttar Pradesh had been Rs. 21 or Rs. 22. So, compared with the prices existing in 1956 and 1957, the prevailing price in Delhi cannot be said to be high, so that there is no justification for continuance of these fair price shops.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: May I know whether the Food Minister is aware that the price of indigenous wheat and atta is going up and the price of atta flour has gone up from Rs. 44 per bag to Rs. 50, instead of Rs. 36.50 which was the price in Uttar Pradesh, and, if so, what steps have been taken?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The figures according to the latest bulletin indicate that in Delhi the price is only Rs. 16.25—the price of wheat, I mean—so that the price cannot be said to be high. For atta, of course, it depends on the price of wheat. There has been some slight increase but not to any substantial quantity.

Shri Tangamani: The question was definite. The price of atta per bag of 2½ maunds is Rs. 44, and that the price of wheat is about Rs. 44. That is the prevailing market price.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The prevailing market price is about Rs. 43; compared with the price existing in the neighbouring State, it cannot be said to be high.

Shri Vajpayee: May I know if it is not a fact that most of the wheat shops were forced to close down as they refused to take their quota from the Government godowns?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Yes; that also happened.

Shri Vajpayee: Am I to understand that the shops have been closed because they refused to have the quota or because the Government thinks there is no need for shops?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The whole question, as I said, was considered in the context of the formation of the wheat zone. At first, Delhi was not included in the Northern zone whereas Punjab and Himachal Pradesh were included. Later on Delhi was also included. The prevailing price of wheat in Punjab will be about Rs 14 to Rs. 16. A little more has to be paid for wheat made available in Delhi. Thus, we will be having an all-India view of these things. When we have regard to the price prevailing in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, the price that we have to pay in Delhi, where the purchasing power is admittedly higher, cannot be said to be high.

Mr. Speaker: I shall proceed to the next item.

Shri Tangamani: There is a purpose for this question.

Mr. Speaker: There is a purpose because we are in the headquarters! All round the prices are high. There is no meaning in asking here. I have allowed a sufficient number of questions on this.

Shri Prabhat Kar: The prices were low. Because of the Government's policy the prices are going up.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. There is a limit to questions. I have allowed a number of questions. I have allowed a sufficient number of questions on this subject.

Shri Tangamani: I shall make my point clear. Out of the 600 fair price shops, only 27 were...

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I have allowed a number of questions on this matter. The hon. Minister has said that with the formation of the northern zone this whole matter has been looked into and that compared to the corresponding prices there in Uttar Pradesh the prices here are not high.