

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Thursday, February 19, 1959/Magha
30, 1880 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Agricultural Administration Committee

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*418 { Shri Rajendra Singh:
Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri Rami Reddy:
Shri L. Achaw Singh:
Shri Subbiah Ambalam:
Shri D. C. Sharma:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No 450 on the 1st December, 1958 and state

(a) whether any decision has been taken in regard to the recommendations of the Agricultural Administration Committee with which Central Government are concerned,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether the views of the State Governments on the recommendations of the Agricultural Administration Committee have since been received,

(d) whether Central Government will give any financial assistance to the State Governments to enable them to implement the recommendations, and

(e) if so, the extent thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Recommendations of the Agricultural Administration Committee with which the Central Government are concerned are closely interlinked with the recommendations concerning State Governments. It was decided at a Conference of State Ministers of Agriculture on the 6th and 7th February, 1959 that the recommendations concerning the Centre should be examined in the light of the conclusions reached with regard to recommendations concerning the States. Necessary action in this connection is being taken

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House [See Appendix I, annexure No 115]

(c) The views of the State Governments were conveyed to the Centre at the Conference of State Ministers of Agriculture referred to

(d) While the State representatives agreed to implement as far as possible the recommendations involving no financial implications, they made it clear that as the resources of the State Governments during the balance of the Plan period, are already committed, recommendations involving financial implications could be given effect to only if the Centre agrees to meet the full expenditure outside the plan provision of the States. The State Governments are, however, prepared to treat the expenditure as committed during the Third Five Year Plan. The question how State Governments could be helped financially in the light of the views expressed at the Conference, is under examination

(e) Each State has agreed to work out the financial implications and communicate the same to the Central Government

Shri Rajendra Singh: May I know the extent of the departure from the main recommendations of the Committee and the reasons therefor?

Mr. Speaker: First of all, he must ascertain whether the recommendations have been implemented

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: They have not been implemented. The States have made it clear that on such recommendations where there is no financial expenditure they are prepared to go ahead. They have not gone ahead to implement those recommendations which imply financial expenditure and in those cases they want help from the Centre. The Centre is going into the question as to how far it could help them.

Shri Rajendra Singh: That is not the point. A list of recommendations of the Committee has been given to us. I wanted to know whether there has been any departure made from the main recommendations of the Committee and if there has been any departure the reasons therefor.

Mr. Speaker: Departure by whom?

Shri Rajendra Singh: Departure from the recommendations.

Mr. Speaker: Departure must be done by somebody.

Shri Rajendra Singh: By the Government.

Mr. Speaker: Which Government? The hon. Members must think out what exactly they are asking. The hon. Minister has said that these are recommendations which have to be implemented by the States. The States are willing to implement those recommendations which do not involve any financial commitments. Regarding the financial commitments and expenditure, the Central Government is considering the best way of enabling the State Governments to find out the means. That is what the hon. Minister said.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That is correct.

Mr. Speaker: What is the departure?

Shri Rajendra Singh: There are certain recommendations where the Central Government is directly involved.

Mr. Speaker: Then, put that question. What about the recommendations which relate to the Central Government?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There are no such recommendations, for, everything has a bearing on the State Governments, because agriculture is primarily a State subject, every recommendation has a bearing on, and is interlinked with, the States.

Shri Rami Reddy: The Andhra Pradesh Government has recently revised the scales of pay in regard to the staff of the Agricultural Department. Has the Central Government any intimation about it and has the Government been approached for any financial assistance and, if so, the reactions of the Central Government in regard to the request for assistance?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Many State Governments are revising the pay-scales of the employees of their Agricultural Departments. The Andhra Pradesh Government have made in the course of the last two or three months some changes in the pay-scales. They have not asked any money from the Central Government. If they ask, we will consider.

Shri Subbiah Ambalam: The Committee has observed that due to gross lack of co-ordination between the Irrigation and Agricultural Departments both in planning and in execution, the irrigation resources are not being fully utilized. It has also recommended that irrigation departments should have a special agricultural officer to serve as a liaison between the agriculturists and the State Departments of Agriculture and that the feasibility of the portfolio of agriculture and irrigation being held by one Minister should be considered. May I know the views of

the Central Government on these recommendations and the reaction of the State Governments on these recommendations?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: This question refers to States mostly because, in the States, they feel that irrigation and agriculture should go together. The question was discussed threadbare at the Conference, and the results of the Conference will be conveyed to the State Governments, because when two Ministries are concerned, it is the Cabinets of the State Governments which have to take action. So, we will forward the recommendations of this Conference to the State Governments.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know if the Central Government have agreed with the finding of the Committee that the lack of higher emoluments to the personnel of the Agricultural Departments in the States as well as in the Centre was the main reason for slackness in the food production in the country and, if so, whether the Central Government have recommended to the States that the emoluments for the cadre of these officers should be improved with a view to achieve greater production in the country?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We do not agree that that is the only reason, but we fully agree that the emoluments of the agricultural staff should be put on a par with those in other departments.

Shri D. C. Sharma: In the statement it is said that there is going to be a division of functions between the Agricultural Department and the Co-operative Department. May I know whether any Committee is going to sit in order to divide these functions in the States and at the Centre and, if so, when will the recommendations of the Committee be available?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There is no need for a separate Committee. Whatever the Agricultural Administration Committee has recommended in its

report is being examined in our Ministry, apart from the recommendations made at the Ministers' Conference. Whatever is necessary, the Ministry will do.

श्री भक्त दर्शन श्रीमन्, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट के सम्बन्ध में उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने क्या सम्पत्ति दी है, उस ने कितने रुपये की मांग की है और उस के सम्बन्ध में क्या निर्णय किया गया है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय एक ही प्रश्न के साथ तीन चार प्रश्न कर दिये जायेंगे तो उनका जवाब नहीं दिया जा सकता है ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन उनका सम्बन्ध एक एक ही प्रश्न से है ।

साथ तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री जे. प्र. जैन) - उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की राय यह थी कि जो सिफारिशों की गई हैं वे बहुत मुनासिब हैं और उन के ऊपर ध्यान होना चाहिये । अभी तक उन्होंने रुपये का हिसाब किताब पूरा नहीं किया है ।

Shri Jaipal Singh: In the report, a very emphatic mention is made of the dead-wood in the departments of agriculture. May I know whether the Minister can give us any quantitative information on this subject? Is it continuous with the figures, where the Directors of Agriculture would like to replace something like 30 to 40 per cent of the agricultural staff? Is there so much of dead-wood in the departments of agriculture?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): I do not think the two concepts are the same. Of course there is dead-wood which has got to be cleared. It differs from State to State. There may be a little dead-wood in the Centre also.

Shri L. Achaw Singh: In view of the fact that there is a specific recommendation of the Committee about the

recommendation of schemes in the case of Union territories, namely, that it should again be referred to the administrative departments and that a second reference is not necessary to the Government of India, may I know whether the Government of India would like to implement from the next financial year, the recommendation of this Committee that a second reference to the Government should be dropped?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: We generally favour that report. As far as the Union territories are concerned, the representatives of the Home Ministry were also present at the Conference and they will take whatever action is necessary in this matter.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: In the statement it is said "The Committee is of the view that a programme which seeks to encourage the farmer to adopt better and improved methods of farming should be matched by a suitable credit programme." May I know whether this Committee has also taken note of the growing indebtedness among the farmers, and, if so, what methods have been suggested in this matter?

Mr. Speaker: Was this report placed on the Table of the House?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may look into it.

Shri Panigrahi: The committee has recommended that the payment of interest charges on fertiliser loans advanced to different States should be deferred. May I know which of the States have been advanced fertiliser loans and what is the interest charge due to Central Government?

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may table a separate question.

Shri Panigrahi: Sir, they have made a recommendation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. This is the rule that I will adopt in regard

to such questions. The recommendations of the Committee are many. If any hon. Member wants a discussion on this report, I will certainly allow a discussion. I cannot, during the Question-Hour, go on allowing a hundred supplementaries relating to that practically amounting to a discussion.

Shri Panigrahi: The hon. Minister submitted that the Centre has no connection with the recommendations of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker: On the other hand, I understand the hon. Minister to have said that it is primarily the responsibility of the State, but the Centre also comes in. Therefore, if the State takes the initiative the Centre will come in.

Shri Jadhav: May I know the composition of the Committee, and whether the agriculturists were consulted before arriving at the decisions?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The Committee was headed by Raja Surendra Singh, Adviser in our Ministry. He himself is an agriculturist. There were a number of other experts also in that Committee.

Shri Rajendra Singh: Sir, you were pleased to observe that Members should not put too many supplementaries and take the time of the House, and that you will allow a discussion on the report if necessary. I had tabled a motion for raising a discussion.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member may put his question.

Shri Rajendra Singh: This is a very important subject, Sir, and I think that a discussion should be allowed.

Mr. Speaker: If any hon. Member tables a motion in the proper form and according to rules, I will then consider if anything more has to be said. If I consider it necessary, I will allow that motion.