

going to be borne entirely by the Goa Government or the Central government or whether the other State Governments also have to pay the cost for no fault of theirs ?

When they are going to give a categorical assurance that the work will be started on such and such date, can the Minister give such assurance because again he has said that once the report comes, there will be some other kind of agitation which can be started by anyone.

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: I have clearly said, there is no question of further examination of any kind. We have very clearly said, this is the final recommendation. As far as the question of sharing of cost is concerned, it is proportionately on equity basis and it is not going to burden any particular individual key State. They give the share according to their own proportion. Even the railway Ministry is also participating with its equity. Beyond that, there is nothing else.

#### **National Policy on P.D.S.**

22. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV :  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee constituted to formulate a national policy on Public Distribution System has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(d) whether the State Governments and representatives of all political parties were consulted in this regard;

(e) if so the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES; CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (f) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

A Committee of Ministers in charge of Food & Civil Supplies Department from States was constituted pursuant to a decision of the PDS Advisory Council in its 15th meeting held on 21st March, 1993, for making recommendations for the formulation of a National Policy on Public Distribution system. Initially, the Committee was given time till 30th April, 1993 for finalising its recommendations. However, the Committee could not complete its work within this time because it could not complete its consultations and discussions. On the request of the Committee for further extension of time, the Government has granted time till 30th of July, 1993 to the Committee for submitting its report. The Committee has not furnished details regarding its consultations.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BARE LAL JATAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a national committee was set up to formulate a national policy on PDS. It was asked to submit its report by April 30, 1993 but due to certain reasons the committee could not submit its report within the given time. Now the tenure of the committee has been extended till July 30, 1993. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that the Prime Minister had announced on August 15 that essential commodities would be made available at fair prices by providing special subsidy to the people of the most backward 117 blocks. I would like to know whether government propose to extend this facility to the drought prone areas of other states also? Does the government propose to identify such drought prone areas in Madhya Pradesh with a view to extend this facility in those areas? If so, whether from this point of view any survey has been conducted in backward areas of vari-

ous states? If not, whether Government proposes to conduct such surveys to identify such areas and the amount being incurred by the central government to provide subsidy on the Commodities supplied to the poor and common people through PDS ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way to ask the question please ask in brief

SHRI BARE LAL JATAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government proposes to exclude the upper class people out of the purview of PDS and if so the criteria laid down for the purpose.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY) : The 15th meeting of the PDS Advisory council has set up a three—member Committee to go into the details of the formulation of the national policy on PDS. Unfortunately, this Committee was not able to complete its work. Now they have been given time till 30th of July.

The other aspect of the question which the hon Member raised covers the RPDS areas. From January, 1992 onwards, all over the country, there is a special programme known as RPDS which is going on. Central Government, in consultation with State Governments, has already selected 1752 blocs for RPDS areas. It consists of mainly the tribal majority areas, the drought—prone areas and the Integrated Development Areas. In these RPDS areas, food grains are supplied at Rs. 50/- per quintal less than the other areas.

Regarding taking more RPDS blocs, we have an open mind by it depends on the financial resources of the Government also.

[translation]

SHRI BARE LAL JATAV : Mr. Speaker,

Sir I would like to know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the BJP Government had cancelled licences of many Fair Price Shops in Madhya Pradesh and their people to forms cooperative societies and issued licences to them. If so, whether the Government proposes to form cooperative societies on this line at national level and issue the licence for Fair price shops to them, if not, whether Government propose to cancel licences issued under the previous system in Madhya Pradesh ?

[English]

SHRI A. K. ANTONY : Central Government received many complaints about politicalisation of PDS from Madhya Pradesh. But we have one problem. Implementation of PES is the responsibility of the State government. The whole PDs operation is a joint operation....(Interruptions) Central governments is responsible for the procurement, storage and distribution of POS articles. Then the selection of FPS and other implementation aspect is entirely the responsibility of the State Government. At the moment, we cannot do anything about that.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, sir, this questions was raised during the last session also but no follow—up action was taken by the Government in regard to the queries raised by the hon. Members at that time. Sir, I have no objection to the extention of date till July 30 for the submission or report by the Committee. But the Government must have a national policy in this regard. It is very unfortunate that the Government is thinking to exclude some people out of the purview of PDS. However the fact is that during the last few years off take has declined and the amount of subsidy has increased.

The reason behind it is increase in corruption. I would like to know from the government about the steps proposed to be taken by it in order to remove the ills such as wide spread corrup-

tion, the supply of low quality foograins and non—availability of essential commodities through the PDS to the rural people and particularly in Delhi? He had himself visited the several places in Delhi and found the substandard food articles being supplied through HDS. He ordered to replace the commodities within 24 hours but have not been replaced even after a period of thirty five days. What is the reaction of the Government to it?

[English]

SHRI A. K. ANTONY : The Central Government is awaiting the report of the Committee on National Policy on PDS. At the moment, we are having an open—mind about the PDS. We have no fixed idea about eliminating any section from availing the benefit of the PDS. As soon as we get the report of the Committee, then only the Government will take a decision about this question.

Regarding the complaint about quality, I do agree with the hon. Member that it is a fact that there are a large number of complaints from all the States about the bad quality of articles issued through the PDS. But the problem is the Central Government is responsible regarding procurement and distribution only. After that, about the FPS and other things, it is the responsibility of the state Governments. But to help the State Government Central Government has again— with all cooperation from you— extended the operation of the Essential commodities Act for another five years. With the Essential Commodities Act and the Prevention of Black-marketing Act and similar acts, the State Governments should be able to punish all those people whoever they are who are engaged in blackmarketing and also mixing of good quality and bad quality food articles. I share your concern. I will again request all the State Governments to take more stringent action against those persons who are engaged in malpractices in the PDS *(Interruptions)*

SHRIBASUDEBACHARIA : He has asked

about Delhi. Please reply to that.

SHRI A. K. ANTONY : This applies to Delhi also.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He had ordered to replace the commodities within 24 hours but it has not been done even in thirty five days ..,.....*(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER : This Question is about National Policy.

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : The Government have asked the Committee to their report. I would like to know whether the Government have issued any reference to the Committee in which areas they should give their opinion. Secondly, I would also like to know whether the World Bank has suggested to the Government of India that the Government of India should reduce their thrust on PDS. what is the reaction of our Government to that?

SHRI A. K. ANTONY : The Government, as such, has not given any direction to the Committee. The 15th meeting of the PDS Advisory Council was held recently and all the States' representatives represented on it. That Council meeting unanimously adopted a Resolution to appoint this Committee. The decision was that this Committee should be able to formulate a National Policy on PDS and also to suggest the ways and means to increase larger and meaningful allocation of food grains to the really needy and common people of our country. The problem is even though we are spending more than thousand crores of rupees by way of subsidy, we are distributing only 18—19 million tonnes of foodgrains. Actually, this PDS distribution is meeting only 12—15 per cent of the requirement of the people.

That is not enough. So, after careful delib-

eration, the PDS Advisory Council has come to the conclusion that instead of giving 12 per cent to 15 per cent of the requirements, at least the needy and common people should get larger quantity. To find out a solution to that, we have appointed this Committee, not to exclude anybody.

Regarding the other question, I would like to inform the hon. Member and also the House that this Government is committed towards PDS. As long as we are here, we will strengthen the PDS. There is no question of weakening the PDS. Whoever it may be, from whichever quarter any advice comes regarding weakening of the PDS, I can categorically tell you that this Government will not be a party to it.

### **Godown Facilities for Wheat**

23. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Will the Minister OF FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Wheat stocks mount in Punjab" appearing in the Times of India, dated June 15, 1993;

(b) if so, whether 2 million tonnes of wheat in Punjab and about 6 lakhs tonnes in Haryana are lying in the open under CAP (cover and plinth) due to lack of Godown accommodation; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to provide enough Godown facilities for stocking wheat in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI)

(a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### **STATEMENT**

(a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. The contents of the news item are by and large factual. CAP Storage being

maintained by Food Corporation of India is a recognised storage system and has been regularly resorted to during procurement season in Punjab and Haryana every year whenever the need arises. Even subsequently, stocks have been maintained under CAP storage in consuming regions whenever FCI has fallen short of sudden additional requirement of covered Godowns.

(c) : During procurement season whenever the need arises additional capacity is hired. As on 1. 4. 1993, Food Corporation of India had total capacity of 49. 53 lakh tonnes in Punjab and 14.00 lakh tonnes in Haryana respectively. During the procurement season till 30th May, 1993 Food Corporation of India had hired additional capacity to the tune of 4. 94 lakh tonnes in Punjab and 0. 58 lakh tonnes in Haryana.

SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Hon. Speaker, Sir, now half of the storage coverage of the FCI is only on Punjab and Haryana. My point is if FCI godowns are constructed in Tamil Nadu, the food grains can be diverted to Kerala, Kamataka, Pondicherry.

SHRI KALP NATH RAI: The procurement of wheat and rice is the highest in Haryana and Punjab. This year, we have a record procurement, that is, ten million tonnes. Now two types of godowns are there — covered Godowns and CAP godowns. Those States which are the consuming States, food grain is despatched to those consuming State and there we are making arrangements for the CAP godowns and covered godowns and even additional capacity is being raised there.

SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: My second question is, half of the storage coverage of FCI is in Punjab and Haryana. My point is, why do you not divert the FCI coverage to Tamil Nadu? There is a small godown in Arakonam. I want an assurance from the hon. Minister where he would construct a godown there with five lakh tonne capacity.