

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI M. B. RANA): The number of two-wheeler scooters in Delhi during the three years 1971, 1972 and 1973 has been as follows:—

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|--------------|---------|
| 1971 | 109,112 |
| 1972 | 128,337 |
| 1973 | 139,693 |
| (up to June) | |

Strike by F.C.I. employees by various States

4417. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the F.C.I. employees of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Orissa resorted to pen down or tool down strike on 2nd July, 1973 and, thereafter to relay fast;

(b) whether the strikers of the FCI raised the slogan "F.C.I. Bachao, Samajbad Lao";

(c) if so, the reasons for such strike and the relay fast and the details about the issues raised in their memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister and its copies forwarded to the Food Minister and the Chairman of the F.C.I.;

(d) whether in this memorandum the All India Central Government Food Employees' Association urged for a judicial enquiry into various malpractices and failure of the procurement targets; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government to the issues raised in the memorandum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) Yes, Sir. The pen down strike was for a day only. The relay fast has since been withdrawn.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement listing the demands of the employees is laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-5507/123]. The agitation was to support these demands astensibly; but in reality it was meant to pressurize the management of the F.C.I. to withdraw the cancellation orders issued against a large number of promotions secured by the Association in the Eastern Zone under duress.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) It was explained to the representatives of the Association that:—

- (1) It was for the Government to take a view on policy matters.
- (2) While some retrenchment may become inevitable in the event of shrinkage in the work entrusted to the F.C.I. adjustments against vacant posts would be made where possible.
- (3) Regarding wheat purchase centres efforts would be made as far as possible to merge the staff recently recruited for wheat takeover programme with the procurement policy for kharif cereals which is under examination.
- (4) Government would welcome from the Association concrete suggestions to improve the image and the working of the Corporation would be looked into.

Posts sanctioned for effective procurement of Kharif Crop and Rabi Crop

4418. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Office of the F.C.I. sanctioned about 2000 posts