

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:—

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 The relay fast has since been withdrawn.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

for effective procurement of 1972-73 Kharif Crops and 1973-74 Rabi Crops for setting up procurement centres and direct purchase centres from the producers of foodgrains, particularly in Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam and other States; and

(b) if so, the number of new recruits appointed and the reasons for not recruiting the full quota of employees for the purpose of making procurement drive a success, with particular reference to Orissa, Bihar, Assam and West Bengal?

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

(a) For procurement of Kharif Crops 1972-73 and Rabi Crops 1973-74, the Food Corporation of India had sanctioned 2533 and 5770 additional posts respectively in different States including Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam.

(b) The total number of new recruits appointed during the Kharif season 1972-73 and the Rabi season 1973-74 was 157 and 1785 respectively throughout the country where the Corporation was called upon to undertake procurement. Out of these posts, the number of recruits appointed in the States of Orissa, Bihar, Assam and West Bengal was 82.

While sanctioning the additional posts will be operated upon only to the extent warranted by the workload at the time of procurement.

Promotion of Employees Working in F.C.I. Calcutta

4419. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 650 posts out of the target of 2,000 posts were filled up by the Food Corporation of India Eastern Zone Office, Calcutta on the basis of promotion of existing employees on the zonal seniority basis during the month of June, 1973;

(b) whether these promoted employees of the F.C.I. were given assignments in different States for the purpose of setting up procurement machineries and other ancillary jobs there;

(c) whether such promotions have been suddenly cancelled, although posts remain sanctioned by Head Office of F.C.I. and the salaries of the promotees withheld leaving them stranded in different States; and

(d) if so, the reasons for such sudden reversal of the F.C.I. policy?

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

(a), (b) & (d). Based on projected work load, including resultant vacancies consequent on promotions, 735 posts were sanctioned earlier. However, on the basis of actual work load, the recruitment was only for 232 posts. The Zonal Manager (East) of the F.C.I., under duress from the Employees Association was made to issue orders for filling 529 posts in the third week of June 1973. These orders issued by the Zonal Manager (East) F.C.I. under duress had to be cancelled by the Headquarters of the Corporation soon after. Revised promotion orders, where necessary, have been issued by the Zonal Manager (East), F.C.I., on the basis of sanctioned posts which he is authorised to operate.

Procurement Centres and Direct Purchase centres set up by F.C.I. for procurement of Rabi Crop

4420. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of procurement centres and direct purchase centres that were set up by the Food Corporation of India in different States for procurement of Rabi Crops;

(b) whether these Centres are being wound up and if so, the reasons therefor; and