

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You should say that. This is not the only country in the world where a large number of foreigners have come and settled down. I think you know that.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : But it is not to that extent.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : What I am saying is, you should not assume - and I am not prepared to assume - that all those people who come and stay here illegally after their visas have expired are necessarily our enemies. They are generally poor people looking for jobs, employment and all that. We have seen many lakhs of people who have gone out to other countries in search of jobs. They are not treated as enemies there. So, what I want to say is, as far as their activities, while they stay here, are concerned if there are any anti-national, subversive or hostile activities, those activities have got to be curbed. Whatever agencies and methods we have got at our disposal, are certainly working very hard. We have apprehended a large number of people. I have already explained, their entry has not been checked to the extent it should have been.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : I wanted to know whether the Minister has suggested any time-bound programme to different States to identify the foreigners and deport them.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Member, it is a very important question. All the members want to express their views on this issue. Six Supplementaries have already been asked in place of five. We have already spent twenty five minutes on this discussion, so we may opt for half an hour discussion on it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : In the begining itself I had welcomed the discussion. Half an hour is not enough for this subject. We should spare some more time for discussion on this subject. A single Member speaks at least for half an hour.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am passing on to the next question.

[Translation]

Bonus to Farmers

*422. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to provide bonus on per quintal support price of wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of farmers likely to be benefited as a result thereof;

(d) the total amount disbursed after the announcement; and

(e) the extent to which the FCI has been able to procure more foodgrains after the said announcement?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :
(a) to (e) A Statement is being placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has announced a Central bonus of Rs. 60/- per quintal of wheat in addition to the minimum support price of Rs. 415/- per quintal for the period 17th March to 10th June, 1997 which is being paid to the farmers simultaneously.

(c) All the farmers who sell wheat to the Government agencies at the price fixed by the Government will benefit from the decision to pay bonus.

(d) As on 5.5.97 the total quantity procured was 28.09 lakh tonnes. At the rate of Rs. 475/- per quintal, the total amount which the farmers would receive is of the order of about Rs. 1333 crores.

(e) Out of 28.09 lakh tonnes, about 5.07 lakh tonnes of wheat were procured by the FCI. All of this was procured subsequent to 9.4.96 - the date on which the orders regarding bonus were issued.

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question. The question of wheat is linked with the question of livelihood of farmers and poor as well. Government has fixed Rs. 415 as support price for Wheat. Afterwards it declared a bonus of Rs. 60. As far as I know, it has happened for the past time. Although the farmers did not accept it. Today the Government wants to purchase wheat at a price of Rs. 475 per quintal while its market price ranges from Rs. 550 to 650 per quintal. Farmers are selling the wheat at the rate of Rs. 550-650 per quintal. Recently farmers had organised a rally at Chandigarh in which lakhs of farmers from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana had participated. They unanimously made a demand
.....[Interruptions]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak in brief.

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : I am just going to conclude it. They demanded that the support price should be raised to Rs. 650 from Rs. 475. Last year wheat had been imported at the rate of Rs. 600. Farmer's are not making unjust demand. Recently the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have also asked the Central Government to raise. The support price to Rs. 550. I would like to know from the Government whether the Government propose to raise the support price in the interest of the farmers, if so the total expected increase and the time by which it is likely to be done.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, no such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.....(Interruptions) Please listen. If you are asking question, please listen to the reply also. If you would give the reply then what for I am here? The support price fixed for wheat is equal to rate at which the wheat had been imported. We have written to all the Hon. Members that the wheat purchased in the country costs the Government Rs. 785.60 p. per quintal while the imported one costs us Rs. 805.10 p. per quintal.

Hon'ble member should understand this that there is such a difference of price. We also give subsidy on fertilisers, diesel and other things to farmers. The wheat we purchase from foreign countries.....(Interruptions).

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Probably you are giving it an other things but not on wheat.....(Interruptions).

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Please listen to my point. You should say: pay more than International price. If the House sanctions it then there is no problem.

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : It is sold six rupees per kg. in the market.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may ask second supplementary question also.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Let me explain. If the Hon'ble member knows them what shall I reply? We pay equivalent to International Price. I have talked with the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana also. They are also co-operating. Crops were not cut due to upsetting of climate. Therefore crops could not be ready. Now 2 to 3 lakhs tonnes of procurement is being made daily. Farmers and both State Governments are co-operating. More than 20 lakh tonnes procurement is being made in 3-4 days.

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, last year, wheat was purchased at the rate of Rs. 300 per quintal. There was wheat crisis last year. Whether it was an artificial crisis or something else I don't know but merchants in collusion with FCI have sold wheat from Rs. 700 to Rs. 1000 per quintal. This adversely affected farmers and the consumers but merchants were hugely benefited and they became rich. Today condition is such that it is the sixth day of May and purchase centres have

already been open throughout the country but there is no purchase. Farmer is not coming to the purchase centre. The farmers think that this wheat will be sold in market at the rate of Rs. 550-650 per quintal. Even officials are not worried about the procurement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the inflow of wheat in the markets is very less than the last year. Today purchase is not even 10 percent in comparison to the total wheat purchased last year until 6th May. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister that what is the reason of such decline? Whether the farmers have boycotted the big markets and if so, whether the Government is worried about its consequences and if so, what action is being taken by the Government?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have already told that this is not a boycott as this season has commenced late. Now rainy season has started again. Crop is not ready and yet, farmers are coming. As I have told, every day about 2½ to 3 lakh tonnes of wheat is coming to the market. Agencies of State Government and F.C.I. are also purchasing it. Until now the condition is such and hence no other question is arising.

It is a fact that last year the wheat purchased by F.C.I. has been sold by it to the private parties and it has raised its price considerably. Once our country has decided to act according to the market, Government has become friendly to the market but the market has not become friendly to the Government. They are hoarding the stock. Therefore the policy of liberalisation came into action. That is why we are going towards transitive phase. We are not able to provide ration to all. For those whom we cannot provide ration, we have to take action for fixation of prices. The House can consider this matter as you are saying that there is no transitive phase and clarity. There are many kind of prices—support price, procurement price, market price, remunerative price etc. If this is so then what can one do? We have to decide this. Now we have decided that farmers will be given an extra bonus of Rs. 60. You say this is not bonus, it is bribe. Then whether all the labourers of the country are taking bribe? There is law for everyone and we have given it deliberately. It was given because market price was high and so there was support price vis-a-vis market price. It means that we will buy when there will be distress sale. This was not support price, we have paid them according to the market. You have said that procurement was less. We have not compared it with last year because last year, summer was little earlier and hence the crop was ready earlier. If we see last several years, then, it has happened many times. I, therefore assure you that the procurement is being made in right direction.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is not replied in this answer.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have not called you. Please sit down.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am speaking on the point of information.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Point of information is made in Question hour and nothing else. When I will call your name, then you may stand.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 2 percent of the total land of India is in Punjab. Punjab gives 60% wheat and 50% rice towards National pool. Farmer of Punjab is worried that the price and bonus to be given by you is not sufficient. There have been agitations also. If people and farmers are not satisfied with it then it will have two consequences. You may have to purchase wheat from outside in case he shift to cash crop. Second solution is that you can increase the price. If you cannot raise the price then atleast, provide some facilities in the form of fertiliser, free water, free electricity etc. Then, the farmer will produce rice and wheat sufficiently. Whether the Government will consider these issues?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with the Hon'ble member that something is happening regarding productivity. The Chief Minister of Punjab has drawn my attention towards this.

One point is that the expenditure cost of the farmers has increased. Due to this, their debts have further increased. Secondly, they say that their productivity has decreased, so you should do something about this. The very next day, I constituted two committees to ascertain as to why indebtedness of farmers have increased and why productivity has decreased so much. These committees included scientists and all other officials. I want to assure the people of Punjab that we shall not let their cultivation go downwards. We shall help them by all means. So far as question of increasing the price is concerned, I would like to draw your attention towards one point that World Trade Organisation has been constituted in the world and an agreement of "GATT" has been signed.

In accordance with that agreement, heavy pressure is being mounted on India for opening of Indian foodgrain market for the multinationals. We have opposed it till date but now we can not say how long we can resist it. The House should be with us for this purpose. But we want to tell you that if a situation arises in which we put the prices high in our country, then foreigners will come and sell their wheat here which will ultimately ruin our agriculture. Therefore we would like to appeal to our Hon. Members that they should not insist on higher prices. Now a days there are approximately equal to the international prices. You take our help in evolving measures for increasing productivity income of our farmers. If we move in the wrong direction then our country's farming will be ruined. In our country the farmers have holdings of smaller size. Somebody has one acre of land whereas some others have two acres or one hectare of land. The farming in foreign countries is highly improved due to which their productivity is higher. Not only in case of foodgrains but

also in case of sugarcane and all other items of agriculture. As the Hon. Member has said, please consider this policy then only we are with you. Whether it is a matter of giving subsidy on fertilisers or providing credit facility or providing help in irrigation or any other thing. We will help not only the farmers of Punjab but also the farmers of the whole country.....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Signing of GATT agreement was opposed by the entire House. At that time the Government was claiming that the interests of the farmers are fully protected but the facts emerging from the statement made today shows that you are under pressure. You are yourself telling this fact.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Whether your question has been allowed or not?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Your answer is not satisfactory, therefore we will urge the Deputy Speaker for this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nitishji, you please sit down.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The Chair has allowed it. I have told you in my answer that the work relating to 'GATT' had already completed and it is known to all of you.....(*Interruptions*) presently we are discussing withdrawal of quantitative restrictions on import. I.M.F. have given a report that India's foreign exchange position is very sound and after contesting it before you it is being opposed there(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You deal it in the same manner in which C.T.B.T. was dealt.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : This is not C.T.B.T. what is C.T.B.T. It is an agreement signed by the countries of the whole world.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have said just now that two committees have been constituted, production in Punjab has increased or decreased. Is there any representative of farmers in these committees or these are comprised of bureaucrats only.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Presently we have nominated scientists to these committees and we do not have any objection in nominating representatives of farmers to these committees.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is all right.

SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are two things in it. First thing is that he has said that during the period of subsidy i.e. from 17 March to 10 June a subsidy of Rs. 60 will be given. Will the Hon. Minister clarify as to why 10th June has been fixed as the closing date. Secondly he has stated that a rate of Rs. 475 is being provided to the farmers in which

Rs. 415 are of procurement price and Rs. 60 for the bonus. So in this manner a rate of Rs. 475 is being provided whereas the imported wheat costs Rs. 805. Then how he has said that price of imported wheat is being provided to the farmers here. You have provided Rs. 475 to the farmers and kept Rs. 310 as additional expenditure. Then after calculating the whole expenditure including the cost incurred on filling of the packs, freight paid for their carriage to the godowns, warehouse charges and the transport charges paid for their movement to the fair price shops under Public Distribution System just to pacify the peasants you say that we have given them the same rate which is being paid for the imported wheat but this is not true. The Food Minister has told the House that we have imported wheat from Australia at the rate of Rs. 622 per quintal. The amount of expenditure incurred on shipment of wheat from there and transporting it to the Public Distribution System is an additional to this price. As per the figures given by him in total that wheat costs Rs. 805 per quintal. But no farmer of any State will feel satisfied because you have given the price of Rs. 475 per quintal.

I was surprised when you said that we also give subsidy. Will you include subsidy in this case of wheat only because subsidy is given not only for wheat including the subsidy is given on fertilisers for growing any crop - be it rice or any coarse foodgrain wherever the subsidy is necessary. Will you include in this subsidy, subsidy given on fertilisers and show the farmer that you have already given the subsidy. Will you include, that subsidy also which you provide on tractor. While calculating the subsidy will you also take this fact into account that they are getting electricity and water at subsidised rates or free of cost. These things are not going to satisfy the farmers.

Just now Bhatia Sahab had said that with this type of attitude of the Government the farmers will start growing other crops and the production of foodgrains in the country will be reduced. With so many difficulties this country has become self-reliant in foodgrains. We have started exporting food grains to the other countries due to which this worst situation has arisen and the country is facing difficult times. One of our colleague has rightly said that our procurement is not that much as you have claimed. You said that due to rains small quantities of food grains have reached the markets - this is not the fact, instead the markets had boycotted the Government procurement due to which small quantities of foodgrains have reached the market. Now foodgrains are gradually reaching the markets. Until you do not improve the situation your procurement target can not be completed and you will have to incur losses and it will also affect the Public Distribution System.

Therefore, Hon. Minister you please tell us that why the date of 10th June has been fixed and why you are telling the farmers that instead of Rs. 675 total Rs. 785 are being spent after taking into account the entire expenditure.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We are telling about the whole expenditure because we do not have to incur this

expenditure on foodgrain which we import from other countries. It directly arrives at Chennai or some other airport. Therefore we have included that expenditure in the price. As far as the question of inadequate supply of wheat in the market is concerned till the 3rd May 36.27 lac. tonnes of wheat was received in the market which had been procured. As far as your apprehension that farmers will be badly affected or will shift over to other crop, we would like to say that previously never an increase of Rs. 95 was allowed, by any Government. This much of increase in price has never been allowed.....(*Interruptions*) never increased.....(*Interruptions*). If you ask then we will have to reply.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have never increased the price by Rs. 95, we have given this much, of money. Some people confuse the support price with the market price. When there is no market price, the prices decrease. Nowadays, we are purchasing potatoes, you will see that the price of potatoes have gone down.....(*Interruptions*)

Prices of potatoes have gone down all over Uttar Pradesh and there is shortage of cold storages(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Nobody is keeping potatoes in the cold storage, but the producers of potatoes are facing difficulties today....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First, let the Honourable Minister complete his reply.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Please speak one by one so that every-body gets the answer.....(*Interruptions*) 25 thousand quintal potatoes have been purchased in Uttar-Pradesh....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : First let the hon. Minister complete his reply....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You should have been the Labour Minister because you have never been concerned with agriculture.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question. The Hon'ble Minister is saying that potatoes are being purchased in Uttar Pradesh. I want to tell the Hon'ble Minister that there is no procurement centre of the agency of the Central Government all over Uttar-Pradesh. The potato producers of that area waited for long, but their produce was not purchased and here you are saying that potato is being purchased....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : What I mean to say is that if there is distress sale we are bound to purchase it. That is why, NAFED is constituted. We are issuing orders in this regard and we have even purchased it. Potato is being purchased in Uttar-Pradesh and Bihar. Onion has been purchased in Karnataka. Chilly has been purchased in Andhra Pradesh. Even then, they say that, nothing has been done.

I want to tell you that when there is distress sale, we will help the farmers in every way by making purchases. But there is an Agricultural Price Commission for fixing the price to be given to them. If the Hon'ble members have doubt on any of the figures or if the Indian Farmers Union have to say something, they should discuss it before the commission and get their problem resolved.

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has informed the House that his ministry has constituted a committee keeping in view the problems of the farmers of Punjab. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister towards Haryana. After Punjab, Haryana is the second State which contribute maximum food-grains in Central pool. But today, the situation is that half of the area of Haryana is facing the problem of shortage of water and in the remaining half land is becoming uncultivable and reclamation has become a problem.

I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister to the statement of the Hon'ble Prime-Minister given in this House during the course of budget that the Government was giving a subsidy of Rs. 17 thousand crore to the farmers. In this regard, I want to say that if you get to the bottom of it, you will find that only 20 percent subsidy trickle down to the farmers and remaining subsidy is grabbed by the factory-owners. As regards inputs, the prices of fertilizers have increased. The price of tractor is increased by Rs. 20 thousand and the Honourable Minister knows very well that the holding has been decreasing. The owner of five 'Kila' land is even not in a position to purchase a tractor today.

In view of the increasing prices of inputs huge expenditure is incurred on reclamation. I want to know from the Honourable Minister whether in view of this problem and the government prices he will constitute such a committee at the national level for the farmers of whole India, including Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

[English]

Keeping in view the terms of the trade, the agriculturists should be taken into confidence. Their work is a problem.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please don't stretch this issue so long.

SHRI SURENDRA SINGH : Will you please get this problem resolved at National level?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of cultivation is concerned, it varies region-wise. The problem of Haryana can not be the same as of Bihar, and the problem of Bihar can not be the same as in any other State. Therefore, we have constituted a Committee on the request of the Chief-Minister of Punjab and Haryana. This committee is confined to those two

States only. As far as the question of fertility is concerned, that is in our knowledge.....(Interruptions)

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Please tell us something about Rajasthan also(Interruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : When you will ask about Rajasthan, I would tell you about Rajasthan also. You please listen to me first. When I start speaking about Punjab and Haryana, you start asking about Rajasthan and when I start speaking about Rajasthan, you start asking about Tripura. It can't go on like this. Please listen to what I am telling one by one(Interruptions)

I am saying that this question is related to those two states only. We have constituted a committee for those states only. If the Honourable Members want to raise the problems of different areas, then we can have a discussion on that and also get or a study conducted by a Central team regarding the measures to be adopted to increase the productivity. We will extend you full help in this regard, but before doing so, you will have to produce all the facts.

If you want to say something about the prices, I again invite you to approach the Agriculture Price Commission. The prices of inputs, the cost of production, the wage of the farmer who labours, and the management also are taken into account. This will take some time, otherwise I can tell you the points which are taken into consideration while the deciding the prices.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The worst victims of the prevailing situation are the poorer sections of the people, who have to depend upon the Public Distribution System. But in the past few weeks in several parts of the country, particularly in the state like West Bengal, there is no wheat available in the Public Distribution System. The Chief Minister of West Bengal has already approached to the Union Government for immediate supply of the committed amount of wheat for the Public Distribution Systems. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether he has any knowledge about this critical situation, particularly in West Bengal? If so, what steps does he propose to take for ensuring the supply of committed amount of wheat for the Public Distribution System in West Bengal?

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Chief Minister of West Bengal yesterday drew my attention to this. Within five minutes I asked the officials to ensure that three racks of wheat may be provided to Bengal daily till its quota is fulfilled. It was done yesterday itself. I am giving this information to you.....(Interruptions) It will start from 9th.....(Interruptions). I would like to urge through you that Bengal produces large quantities of rice but does not contribute even a tiny part of it to the Central pool. They only take from us and never give anything.

SHRI RUP CHAND PAL : That is a deficit State.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is rice that is deficit(Interruptions). But your data does not demonstrate it. People of Bihar also do the same thing. Food production in Bihar is very good. They take from us but do not contribute to the Central pool. If you sell in High powers then tomorrow it will be Punjab or others....(Interruptions)

SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Rice of Bengal(Interruptions) goes to Bihar, therefore, ... (Interruptions) therefore, it does not contribute to the Central Pool in spite of producing so much rice.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : You are our brigade(Interruptions) We shall rely on M.P. Shri Indrajit will rely on police. We rely on you. You must stop them.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister have just now talked about the agriculture of the other countries of the world. May I know from him whether he is aware that all the developed countries of the world have provided all kinds of facilities for preservation of foodgrains and they provide large amount of subsidy to preserve their edibles because it is believed that the countries which are dependent on other countries for their edibles lose their independence soon. If we talk of giving subsidy in our country then our Finance Minister says to a foreign professor that we are going to reduce the subsidy. You talk of providing subsidy while the Finance Minister talks of minimising it. Whatever is happening today with the wheat-growers will divert them to producing other things in their fields. Not only you but other departments also are encouraging the production and export of flowers. Col. Rao Ram Singh will tell you that farmers in large numbers in Haryana are producing flowers and in Punjab farmers are producing other things.

11.59 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Farmers in U.P. have started producing potatoes. One of my friend was saying that production of potatoes was so much in excess in Faizabad that it has no takers. The Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Finance and Minister of Horticulture make divergent statements. Do the Government have any National Policy and if so, then how can they provide subsidy? What will happen when Parliament session is going on and the Minister of Finance gives an assurance outside the Parliament to a foreign professor to reduce subsidy.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever has been said by the Minister of Finance, we have read it in the newspapers only. That is a different matter.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : How is it that different matter(Interruptions)

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA : This is not a different thing. That is his point(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Whether the Government has collective responsibility? Discussions are held in the Cabinet.....(Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Only the decisions taken by the Cabinet are collective. Otherwise if anybody speaks that is not the point.... (Interruptions). I am replying to the Hon. Member.

[Translation]

We are dead against the import of foodgrains. If we have to import foodgrains then I will think myself as an incapable Minister for Agriculture. But if the traders compel us then we cannot allow people to starve. Perhaps the Finance Minister had this in mind when he talked to the foreign professor. I agree with you on the second aspect that a farmer in America is given subsidy of 27 thousand dollars, we cannot provide that much subsidy because we are a poor country but we shall do our best to increase our production.

[English]

SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Sir, in the entire question hour only two questions were taken up. This is unfair for other Members. Most of the Hon. Members are giving statements and not asking questions. It is going on continuously.....(Interruptions). In the entire hour only two questions were taken up.

MR. SPEAKER : I think you have raised a very important question.....(Interruptions).

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

High Powered Committee on Sugar Sector

*423. SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since set up a high powered committee to study all the aspects of sugar sector including rules and regulations prevailing in other sugar producing countries as directed by the Allahabad High Court on December 11, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition of the committee and the schedule prescribed for the submission of its report; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?