

5. In order to ensure the remunerative prices to farmers and encourage production, the Govt. of India took the decision to increase the procurement prices of kharif cereals for the current season. Consequent upon the upward revision in the procurement prices, the issue prices have also been suitably revised to reduce the burden of subsidy and deficit financing. With the improved crop prospects and announcement of the kharif price policy, market arrivals of kharif cereals have been reported to be much better than the previous year. The current trend of procurement compared to the previous year is very encouraging. We expect that with determined efforts, and active co-operation of the State Governments, it should be possible to maximise procurement this year.

6. With better crop prospects, the availability of foodgrains in the market is going to be considerably improved, and undoubtedly this will bring in a considerable measure of confidence, in the management of food economy. Available stocks will have to be judiciously utilised, to meet the essential demands of the deficit States, but at the same time in the area of public distribution, we must be careful and vigilant to conserve and use stocks of foodgrains to our best advantage. With the considerable improvement in the food situation determined efforts will have to be made to keep up this optimism, so that its effect on the general economy could be equally felt.

13.11 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. GOVERNMENT  
 DECISION ON THE REORGANISA-  
 TION OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF  
 AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
 THE MINISTRY OF AGRICUL-  
 TURE (SHRI ANNASHEB P.

SHINDE): I beg to lay a statement indicating Government's decisions on the reorganisation of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in the light of the recommendations of the ICAR Inquiry Committee.

Statement

In his statement made in the Lok Sabha on 1st August, 1973, the Minister of Agriculture had informed the Hon'ble Members that in its Report the ICAR Inquiry Committee, set-up by the Government in June, 1972, had suggested some radical changes in the present organisational set-up of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Since decision making on the recommendations of the Committee had to be based on a detailed consideration of the position of agricultural research in the overall context of the organisation and management of Scientific Research Institutions in the country, the Cabinet had appointed a Group of Ministers, to examine the recommendations of the Inquiry Committee. In concluding the statement, the Minister of Agriculture had assured the Hon'ble Members that the Government of India was fully conscious of the urgency and importance of the matter and that all possible steps were being taken to arrive at decisions on the major recommendations of the ICAR Inquiry Committee, as expeditiously as possible.

2. The Report of the ICAR Inquiry Committee was subsequently placed on the Table of the two Houses of Parliament on 3rd August, 1973.

3. I now wish to report that Government, after giving careful consideration to the recommendations made by the Inquiry Committee and the views expressed by the Governing Body of the ICAR and other eminent scientists and keeping in view

the overall organisation and management of scientific institutions in the country, has taken the following decisions, on the advice of the Group of Ministers:—

- (1) Reorganisation of the ICAR structure on the basis of the changes recently made by Government in the CSIR in the light of the recommendations of the CSIR Inquiry Committee, so as to confer on ICAR greater autonomy and flexibility in its operational and management procedures, with such modifications, as may be needed from the CSIR pattern.
- (2) Establishment, with immediate effect, of a Department of Agricultural Research and Education in the Ministry of Agriculture to provide the ICAR with the requisite linkages with the Central and State Government agencies and in international collaboration in agricultural research and education and designating the Director-General, ICAR concurrently as Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Agricultural Research and Education.
- (3) Initiating an emergency recruitment procedure through a special Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board, with an eminent agricultural scientist as whole-time Chairman, to be set-up by the ICAR with the approval of the Cabinet, which will function as an independent recruitment agency for filling up those of the 1200 and odd currently vacant posts in the ICAR which carry a salary of Rs. 700—1250 and above.
- (4) Authorising the ICAR Institutes to make recruitment for posts upto Rs. 400—950 according to the current procedures, as may be modified in the light of the recommendations made by the Inquiry Committee, subject to the recommendations of the Institute Selection Panels being accepted by the Chairman of the Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board.
- (5) Authorising ICAR to fill up the currently vacant senior posts at the Headquarters, through transfer/deputation by a Departmental Selection Committee, to be constituted in consultation with the Department of Personnel.
- (6) Development of a new personnel system for the ICAR which does not involve recurrent application and competition, with appropriate provisions for direct recruitment at different levels using the relevant procedures in operation in the CSIR and the Department of Atomic Energy.
- (7) Revision of pay-scales of agricultural scientists on the basis of Government decisions on the recommendations of the Pay Commission and those adopted by other scientific agencies of the Government of India.
- (8) Setting up of Executive and Management Committees in the Research Institutes, so as to broad-base the decision-making process and ensure effective implementation of approved research and training programmes and decentralisation of powers all along the line.

I am laying a Statement on the Table of the House explaining, in detail, the Government decisions on the major recommendations of the Inquiry Committee.

In the end, I would like to express both on behalf of the Government of India and on my own, our deep sense of gratitude to Dr. P. P. Gajendragadkar and his colleagues on the Inquiry Committee for completing the work of the Committee within the specified time and for giving us a very comprehensive Report.

**SHRI S. M. BENERJEE (Kanpur):** Sir, copies of the statement should be circulated so that we can have a discussion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Yes; it will be done.

13.12 hrs.

**RE. CERTAIN ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS IN CENTRAL HALL OF PARLIAMENT HOUSE**

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** (Begusarai): Sir, I have, with a measure of reluctance, to refer to a widespread impression that the Central Hall of Parliament has been recently bugged. The basis for this apprehension or suspicion has been provided by the very complicated system of mechanical contrivances that have been set up in the Central Hall. The obvious reason that is being given is that it is for the convenience of interpretation. But the minds of the Members to be disabused of the apprehensions. The allegation is that the opportunity has been taken by the Government to bug the entire Central Hall. You would recall that sometime back that there was an allegation that there was a network of spies in the Central Hall. That was confirmed by some of the allegations that were made against the hon. Member, Shri Dinesh Singh, which were based on some cock-and-bull stories in the Central Hall of Parliament or whatever they

are. We all know that the highest executive in the United States is now under a cloud and he is not being trusted by the Congress or the public there. He is being prosecuted in three forums, the press, the Grand Jury and also the Congressional Committee.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You raise this issue to that level?

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** If it comes to that. Because the Central Hall is your direct responsibility and comes under your care, you should appoint a Committee of Members of Parliament to assure the Members that no such bugging has been done. That can be done only in this way.

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, सरकार इस बारे में आश्वासन दे दे, इस से बात नहीं बनेगी। (अध्यक्षान) यह बात समाचार-पत्रों में छपी है—जिम्मेदार पत्रकारों न इस बात को लिखा है कि सेंट्रल हाल में एक मिनी-टेप रिकार्डर काम में लाया गया, मेम्बर जो बात करते हैं, उसको टेप किया गया और उसे किसी पार्टी के एक फोरम में पेश किया गया।

**अध्यक्ष महोदय :** जो बात हाउस में चल रही है, आप उसी पर रहिये।

**श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :** अभी तक इस बात का खंडन नहीं किया गया है। अगर आप हमें इजाजत देंगे, तो हम वह टेप-रिकार्डर लेकर आप के पास आयेंगे।

मेरा निवेदन है कि यह मामला इतना सरल नहीं है। यह बड़ा गम्भीर प्रश्न है। इस तरह के निश्चित आरोप लगाये गये हैं कि मेम्बर आपस में जो बातचीत करते हैं, उसको रिकार्ड किया जाता है। अगर यह चीज चलेगी, तब तो समझ लेना चाहिये कि लोकतंत्र खत्म हो गया। इस प्रकार तो हम कहीं भी स्वतंत्रता से बात नहीं कर सकते। इसलिये मैं इस मांग को सपोर्ट करता हूँ कि आप एक कमेटी