

has also been introduced. These are the various steps that have been taken so that the growers are helped for the purpose of getting a remunerative as also price the growth of tobacco.

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : Sir, the auction system introduced by the Tobacco Board has not helped the growers actually because the merchants compromise themselves. They do not offer higher prices. Now, I am told, while exporting, the merchants are making a minimum of Rs. 15000/- per tonne as profit whereas the former is not getting the benefits. So, as in the case of Coffee Board, can you have the 'pool system' in the case of tobacco through the Tobacco Board so that they can re-sell the same tobacco as in the case of coffee ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I am sorry, not entirely agree with the hon. Member that the auction system has not been able to help the growers. In fact the position is that previously before the auction system was introduced, so far as the exporters and traders were concerned, they were not paying money to the growers on time. In fact, large amounts of arrears were pending to be paid to the growers. Now, the position is that when it comes to the question of auction, the Tobacco Board itself gives a cheque—though it is a post dated cheque in 15 days. So, the grower now gets the entire amount within 15 days. This is one part of it. The second part is that because of the auction, there is a stiff competition among the bidders, as a result of which proper price is fetched. The hon. Member has also been pleased to ask about the Pool, as to whether there is any proposal like that of that Coffee Board. Well, I am unable to study the very economics of it. I have not gone into the details of it and this suggestion I will certainly keep in mind. I do not say, I am conceding to the hon. Members proposal but none-the-less, it is worth examining. I will certainly do it.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I am very much please to hear the hon. Minister's answer. He is very intelligent. But I want to know categorically from the Minister one thing. Please try to hear what is the technical thing.

(Interruptions)

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I want to know the correct information from the hon. Minister as to what is the sale value, per tonne, of tobacco both C.I.F. and F.O.B. for the last two years and what is the purchase price two from the growers, per tonne, for the last years.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I am sorry that I do not have those figures. I will lay them on the table to the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have asked Mr. Ranjit Singh Gaekwad to put a question.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Sir, looking to the falling market of tobacco and the propaganda that chewing and smoking is injurious to health, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the tobacco growers would be given any incentive to grow some other crops ? Is the Government Planning such programme for them ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I think the answer is known to my hon. friend.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please permit me to ask a question which is very important. Tobacco is cultivated extensively in Andhra Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER : He himself asked the question.

[English]

Management of Foodgrains by F.C.I.

*291. **PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT :**

SHRI R.M. BHOYE :

Will the Minister of **FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that foodgrains management of the Food Corporation of India has not been satisfactory;

(b) if so, reasons thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted by Government to review the working systems of the Corporation; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the management of foodgrains by Food Corporation of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A.K. PANJA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The performance of Food Corporation of India is constantly reviewed with a view to improving its operational efficiency.

[*Translation*]

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAK-TAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister the quantum of foodgrains that is treated as wastage in F.C.I. godowns without the permission of the regional officers ? At the same time, I would also like to know the quantum of wastage of foodgrains during 1985-86 ? My second supplementary is that a large quantity of foodgrains continues to lie in the open and the fact is that these foodgrains are rotting. Have you ever conducted a survey to find out the quantum of foodgrains lying in open outside the godowns ?

[*English*]

SHRI A.K. PANJA : It is not correct that because it is lying in the open, the wastage is there, damage is there. There are two systems operating now : one is within the constructed godowns, *pucca* constructions, and the other is cap system, that is, cover and plinth method. Therefore, whenever it is seen that the foodgrains are lying in the open, they are always covered under the specifications given for protection of foodgrains. (*Interruptions*) So far as damaged portions are concerned, when they cease to be edible by human beings, then those are used sometimes for the purpose poultry feed and sometimes for other purposes. Very small portions are wasted.

[*Translation*]

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAK-TAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been replied to. I want to know from the hon. Minister the quantum of foodgrains which is treated as wastage and what is its percentage ? Can you give me the figures relating to the last year ?

[*English*]

SHRI A.K. PANJA : This does not arise out of this main Question.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It is arising out of mismanagement.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you interrupting ? Let him reply.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Kindly see the question, Sir :

“Whether it is a fact that foodgrains management of the Food Corporation of India has not been satisfactory;”

It is not so.....

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : May I submit this...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Take in easy. You will get the information. Information cannot be denied to us. But let it be done properly. We can get the information by other means also. We can have questions, but not like this.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I may submit that we sitting on this side do appreciate the concern of the hon. Members with reference to what is going on in the Food Corporation of India. We are not trying to cover up anything. But the fact of matter is that, when it comes to the question of the percentage of wastage, that is not available at present. We will lay it on the Table on the House.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I said. It cannot be denied.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I want to point out, Sir, that if you go through the no-day-yet-named Motions of the last five Sessions, you will find that this subject has been mentioned. But never a discussion has been allowed on that. You allow Half-an-Hour Discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER : No problem.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Please allow Half-an-Hour Discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER : No Problem.

[*Taanslation*]

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether in addition to F. C. I.'s own godowns, godowns are also taken from private parties to store food-grains? If so, the expenditure incurred in such godowns during 1985-86? Have you got some training arrangement for imparting training to the employees who maintain these godowns; if so, where this training is imparted?

[*English*]

SHRI A.K. PANJA : So far as FCI godowns allowing private parties to store their things is concerned, it is not to our knowledge. For procurement by FCI, there are rented godowns, our own godowns, State godowns. There is a training programme for the maintenance of these stocks so that the stocks are maintained in a healthy position and it reaches the end consumer in a proper manner.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Sir, may I have your kind indulgence to answer this point? I have now got the figures. They are rather unfortunate on reading. But nonetheless I post the House with the information, whichever has come to my notice.

As regards the losses in transit as well as storage both put together—I have got the different lists or the transit loss as also the the storage loss, but I would give the total shortages—they are : In 1980-81 it was 6.43 lakh tonnes. (*Interruptions*) I am bringing to your kind notice,

If there is something wrong, we must try to find a way out. That is why I am bringing all the facts. I would not like to hide anything from the House. (*Interruptions*) Please wait. I have myself volunteered to give the figures.

6.43 lakh tonnes is the shortage in 1980-81 valuing at Rs. 100.20 crores. In 1981-82 it was 6.51 lakh tonnes valuing at Rs. 115.91 crores. In 1982-83, 7.40 lakh tonnes valuing Rs. 143.66 crores. In 1983-84, 6.74 lakh tonnes valuing Rs. 140.70 crores. In 1984-85, 5.72 lakh tonnes valuing Rs. 122.76 crores.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Therefore subsidy is given.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Mr. Daga, we are also concerned with what is happening. It is none of my intentions to hide any figures. I must also make it clear when it comes to the question of percentage of quantity of purchase which has gone into loss, in 1980-81 it was 2.76%; 1981-82, 2.28%; 1982-83 2.37%; 1983-84, 2.11%; and 1984-85; 1.94%.

MR. SPEAKER : 1985 has been a good and progressive year with regard to losses as well as percentage.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Wrong procurement is the reason of all these things. I am giving an example. I don't know whether the Central Government has noticed it. In Kerala, 65000 tonnes of rice cannot be used. It is unusable for human consumption, it is kept in the godown and for Kerala now the supplies are made from Coimbatore. Also the stocks which are not fit for human consumption are not destroyed. I am asking whether the Government will conduct an enquiry into all these things and see that the unusable for human consumption stocks are destroyed and fresh stocks are sent. This is happening because of mismanagement. What is the programme to regulate the procurement?

MR. SPEAKER : This has already been answered.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : How are they going to regulate the procurement?

MR. SPEAKER : That is what they are saying. In the last year there has been an improvement; they can improve upon it further.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : In financial terms it is going upto 150 crores of rupees. The Finance Minister should take specific note of it.

MR. SPEAKER : That is what he has said. It has to be improved. Last year there was improvement as compared to the previous year.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Sir, the Minister of State was pleased to say that they do not authorise other people to keep the FCI rice or foodstuff with them. *(Interruptions)* I would like to know whether in some areas where the poverty alleviation measures of providing rice to the poor people, especially the tribals, under subsidised rates are taken up, that purpose has been defeated and the whole thing becomes a cruel mockery to the tribal consumers because of the appointment of wholesalers between the FCI and the retailers? These wholesalers give the people and the retailers godown sweepings and other inferior rice and sell the better quality which they obtain from the FCI in the open market and thus make lot of money. Has the Minister's attention been drawn to this specific question?

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, attention has not been drawn to any such mismanagement...

SHRI G.G. SWELL : Sir, I contest it very strongly. I have myself written a letter explaining the whole thing to the Minister concerned. He now says, his attention has not been drawn. I myself handed over the letter to the Minister and did not send it through the office. May I also say that I have also drawn the attention of the Prime Minister to this and the Prime Minister has replied to me. *(Interruptions)* I don't believe it.

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, the question was directed to me. Is the letter written to me?

SHRI G.G. SWELL : I have written to

the Ministry and the Minister. Let the Minister reply. I only quoted him. I did not direct to him. I directed it to the Ministry and the Minister.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Sir, I am sorry. The issue need not have become that controversial. Very recently the hon. Member had passed on the letter to me. That is under consideration. I have not been able to pass it on to my colleague and I am sorry for that. He does not know that fact. That is why he gave that answer. But the point is, when it comes to the question of rice being supplied at the subsidised rates, what becomes most disturbing is that in many an area the public distribution system is not that efficient. I have already stated that I am feeling the difficulties in that. I have written to the various Chief Ministers also in this respect that their public distribution system must become strong not only in tribal areas but also in rural and urban areas. In the urban areas it is slightly better than the rural areas. So, Sir, because the public distribution system is not strong, this difficulty is arising. On the question whether it should be supplied to the wholesalers or whether it should be supplied to the Civil Supplies Department of the State itself...

SHRI G.G. SWELL : To the retailers directly from the FCI.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : It is not possible for the FCI to directly supply it to the retailers. This becomes very difficult. In fact, one of the methods that we are following is to supply to the Civil Supplies Department of the State so that through that process it moves on to the retailers. In the absence of that, of course, the wholesalers were being dealt with. The suggestion made by the hon. Member is a very relevant suggestion. That matter can be considered but it cannot be resolved overnight. It will certainly take time.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : If you had only acknowledged my letter, this problem would not have arisen.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : You give me some time to go into it and scrutinize it.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : At least, you acknowledge it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the figures just given by the hon. Minister, it is quite clear that the foodgrains are rotting there. You must have also been satisfied... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Not satisfied but dissatisfied.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : What I am saying is that the foodgrains are rotting there, is the hon. Speaker satisfied with it ?

But, Sir, had there been some private party in place of this Government agency, this thing would not have happened. You are a Minister in the Government and your position in the Government intact. Had the damage to foodgrains been there, the hon. Minister would have been dropped by Shri Rajiv Gandhi. But it has not happened and consequently the Government are suffering loss. If you do not take action to make up this loss, we too, shall be pained... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You put your question.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Shri, I want to ask that hon. Minister should make it clear as to how much time he would take to undertake protective measures, be it two, three, four, five, six or seven months...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : That is enough. Now don't make it over-clear.

[*English*]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : The question is slightly involved. But I assure the hon. Member that if this House or any of the Member finds that something has gone wrong because of my mistake, I will not continue for a day as Minister. But the point is that there are historical factors in various departments and various institutions. This is going on for quite a long time and, in fact, I am myself agitated over it. I and my colleagues are going into the review of the whole thing. If the hon. Members are

prepared to give any suggestions, I will certainly consider them.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I have a suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER : You can send it to him. You are always welcome to his office any time.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I can give credit to the hon. Member for his legal suggestions, but want practical suggestions...

(*Interruptions*)

These are matters which are to be gone into. As I submitted, I am myself a little concerned over the various aspects of the Food Corporation of India. We will take the required measures, but it is not possible to indicate whether we will do it within six months or eight months. One has got to work it out ; it takes time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister at what price you procure wheat from the farmers and at what price is it issued to the fair price shops ? How much expenditure you incur on one quintal of wheat and how much profit or loss do you make accordingly ?

[*English*]

SHRI A.K. PANJA : I have got the details with me, right from the Mandi charges upto how much is required for procurement. It is a big chart; I can lay it on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Agreed.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want the hon. Minister to tell how much expenditure is incurred per kilogram ?

Smuggling of Goods from Nepal

*292. **PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that despite