

है उसका किराया उस को बहुत ज्यादा देना पड़ता है तो क्या सरकार उस किराये को नियंत्रित करने के बारे में कुछ सोच रही है या सोचने का विचार रखती है ताकि किसानों को ज्यादा किराया न देना पड़े ?

श्री बोरेंद्र सिंह राव : बिहार के बारे में और पटना के बारे में कि वहाँ आलू का क्या भाव है, वह जानकारी तो मेरे पास इस समय नहीं है लेकिन ग्राम तौर पर जो मैंने फिगर्स दी है बंगलौर, पंजाब, दिल्ली फर्रुखाबाद जो आलू का बहुत बड़ा सेंटर है और दूसरी जगहों की, जहाँ आलू ज्यादा से ज्यादा पैदा होता है, जैसे फर्रुखाबाद है, बंगलौर है, दिल्ली है, पंजाब भी कुछ मंडियाँ हैं, हिमाचल प्रदेश भी है, उन के अंदर बढ़ती हुई और फर्म प्राइसेज को देख कर यह मैं कहा सकता हूँ यकीन के साथ कि आलू की कीमत सब जगह अच्छी है और रेस्पनरेटिव प्राइस किसान को मिल रही है। कोल्ड स्टोरेज के किराये का जहाँ तक सवाल है तो ऐसी हालत तो हम आइन्दा कभी पैदा होने नहीं देंगे जैसी कि दो साल पहले थी कि आलू की कीमत तो थी 15 रुपये बैग मंडी में और कोल्ड स्टोरेज वाले चार्ज करते थे 25 रुपये, वह भी कभी नहीं होगी। अगर बदकिस्मती से ऐसी हालत होगी तो हम इस के ऊपर भी ध्यान देंगे और कोल्ड स्टोरेज का भी इंतजाम करेंगे मुनासिब किराये पर।

PLI Policies for Staff of Nationalised Banks and Public Sector Undertakings

*623. SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that although the employees of Reserve Bank and State Bank of India are eligible to take out Postal Life Insurance policies, the staff of the other nationalised banks and public sector undertakings are out of the purview of the Postal Life Insurance scheme; and

(b) if so, will the Government indicate reasons therefor and take action to extend Postal Life Insurance to all such organisations which will be beneficial for the Postal Life Insurance fund and the beneficiaries as well?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India which was established in

1956, has the exclusive privilege of carrying on life insurance business throughout India. It is only by way of exception that Postal Life Insurance has been permitted to carry on its operations, the consideration being that it provides life insurance cover as a service facility mainly to Government servants. Having regard to the purpose for which the LIC was established, it has not so far been considered necessary to enlarge the scope of the Postal Life Insurance and extend the same to employees of public sector undertakings, including nationalised banks. A suggestion for such extension is, however, being examined.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष जी मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ क्या यह बात सही है कि जीवन बीमा का काम करने का क्षेत्र जीवन बीमा निगम का है लेकिन सरकार ने इन्तजाम किया है कि सरकारी कर्मचारियों को कुछ लाभ हो सके इसलिए उनको परमिट किया है। इसी बात को ध्यान में रखकर मैं जानना चाहूँगा कि जो सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में काम करने वाले कर्मचारी हैं या बैंकों में काम करने वाले कर्मचारी हैं वे भी अर्ध-सरकारी कर्मचारी के बराबर हैं ही तो उनको आप ऐसी सुविधा देने में क्यों हिचकिचा रहे हैं? क्या कारण है कि आप उनको देना नहीं चाहते हैं? उनको देने से लाइफ इंश्योरेंस को लाभ होगा या नुकसान होगा इसलिए आपकी हिचकिचाट है?

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: This question of the life insurance has a history behind it. The Reserve Bank employees were eligible for PLI prior to the Independence and this facility was extended to the State Bank employees in 1957. The question whether the employees of public undertakings and the Nationalised Banks will be eligible is entirely dependent on the decision of the Ministry of Finance. The Postal Life Insurance is a Government run insurance scheme meant essentially for Government employees of all categories including employees of the State Governments, local bodies and government-aided educational institutions, universities, etc. The staff of the CSIR, ISI, Medical Council of

India, Nursing Council of India, Dental Council of India, Pharmaceutical Council of India are also eligible for the benefit of Postal Life Insurance Scheme. As these bodies are 'Local Fund' bodies in terms of Clause 14 of Rule 9 of the Fundamental Rules for the purpose of Rule 2, Clause 4 of the rules governing Postal Insurance Fund, the important point is that for others to enjoy the benefit of Postal Life Insurance, they have to be declared as 'Local Fund' bodies. It is the Ministry of Finance who will decide whether or not this benefit should go to the Nationalised Banks and the public undertakings. We are merely an agent. It is left to the Ministry of Finance to decide. This is our position. We cannot help, but we have an open mind. We very much see the Fund Index. It is entirely left to the Ministry of Finance to take a decision in the matter whether the employees of the Nationalised Banks and the employees of the public undertakings are eligible for PLI.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : अध्यक्ष जी, मंत्री जी ने बहुत अच्छा लम्बा जवाब दिया। पहले तो उन्होंने इनकार कर दिया लेकिन आखिर में कहते हैं कि इस तरह के प्रस्ताव पर विचार किया जा रहा है कि उनको दूसरों को पोस्टल लाइफ इश्योरन्स की सुविधा दी जाए या नहीं। यह दरवाजा आपने खूला रखा है तो इससे यह पता चलता है कि इसके पीछे तर्क मजबूत है इसीलिए आप विचार कर रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस पर अन्तिम निर्णय कब तक कर लेने का विचार रखती है ?

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: As I have already explained, the matter rests with the Ministry of Finance. It is better known to them. Unless they give us a clearance, it is not for us to take a decision whether they are eligible for it or not.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): My colleague Mr. Kartik Oraon has explained the position. As far as we are concerned, we will be only too happy to get all the employees, governmental, quasi-governmental, nationalised bank, local body employees, all of them into the scheme and I

would make use of this opportunity to recommend that they must come in because it is a very good scheme. Our premium is low and the bonus is high. We have taken up this matter with the Department of Economic Affairs and they had agreed to allow nationalised bank people also to come into the scheme but subsequently the Insurance Controller took a different view and therefore it got stalled. We are pursuing the matter. We are as keen as the hon. Member if it is possible, if other considerations do not come in, to get them into this scheme. The question is whether it will dilute the monopoly character of the LIC. This is a question that comes in. As there is already an exception to the monopoly character, we have to consider whether on the same scheme, on the same principle on which other government employees have been admitted to it, it is permissible. As far as my information goes, the Finance Ministry is presently favourably considering this matter.

S.T.D. between Ahmedabad and other Cities of Gujarat

*625. **SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHWA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities of Gujarat which are connected with Ahmedabad by S.T.D.; and

(b) the names of cities which are likely to be connected during the next Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON):

(a) The stations of Gujarat connected to Ahmedabad by STD link are Gandhinagar, Rajkot, Nadiad, Mehsana, Surat and Baroda.

(b) It is planned to connect the following stations in Gujarat through STD facility with Ahmedabad:--

Bhavnagar, Godhra, Kalol, Patan Modasa, Palanpur, Petlad, Talod, Unjha, Visnagar and Surendernagar.