

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Badaun district is included in the 42 districts here, and thus agro-industries are being established there.

SHRI K. OBUL REDDY: In the Minister's statement it is seen that during the Sixth Plan, agro-based industries are being contemplated in 17 States, but the names of only three sizes, viz. Bihar, Karnataka, and UP have been mentioned. Andhra Pradesh has got huge quantities of agro-products, and it produces almost all varieties of agricultural products, including fruits. May I know from the hon. Minister whether in the 17 States, Andhra Pradesh is also included? Will the Government start any agro-based industries in the public sector or private sector in Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Andhra Pradesh is also included in the 17 States; there is no doubt about it. All the industries which are based on agricultural produce are considered as agro-industries. Andhra Pradesh is also getting all the benefits.

Minimising losses incurred by Food Corporation of India

*861. **SHRI ARJUN SETHI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5773 on 29th March, 1982 regarding loss incurred by F.C.I. on account of unloading of wheat and state:

(a) the specific and feasible measures Government have taken to minimise the loss suffered by the Food Corporation of India; and

(b) the concrete results thereof achieved during the year 1981-82?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The specific and feasible measures that are being taken by the Food Corporation of India to minimise the losses, are as follows:

(1) Proper weightment and effective supervision at the loading and unloading

(2) Tightening up of the security arrangements at the depots.

(3) Surprise checks by senior officers/special squads of the Food Corporation of India Head Office/Regional Offices.

(4) Streamlining the reporting system about receipts, issues and stocks at Depots.

(5) Verification and scrutiny of the reports at the District, Regional and Zonal levels of the Food Corporation of India.

(b) The Corporation has not yet finalised the accounts in regard to Transit shortages for the year 1981-82.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, the measures enumerated by the Hon. Minister in reply to my question are not new to the House. Here in the House many times the same answer has been repeated by the Government. So, in this context may I ask the Hon. Minister after having enforced these measures, what is the quantity they saved and what is the amount of the quantity in terms of rupees saved and whether any cases of pilferage etc., as it is alleged, in connivance with the employees of the FCI as well as the local people have taken place. If so, may I know how many cases have been detected.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): It is not the question only of deciding upon the measures to be taken. The real effect of the measures is made when these measures are implemented and properly enforced. Now, we are trying to see that there is no laxity, there is no loophole, there is further tightening of all the measures that the Government of India wants the FCI to take to reduce the losses on account of pilferage and loss in storage. During the year 1981, the percentage of loss in transit has been only 1.94 per cent and the loss in storage has been only 0.74 per cent. So, I think it is a reasonable percentage of loss when such a huge quantity of fodgrains stored and it has to be protected.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: No, no.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: It is not a small operation if you consider 15 to 20 million tonnes of foodgrains to be handled and stored in the country. I would request Prof. Ranga to see the implications and the work that goes behind it at every level right from the Ministry to the FCI, senior officers, Zonal Managers, then the District Managers and even the guards in the storage depots. All these things are now specially being looked after. We have decided upon certain new measures also to check and verify even the number of bags in wagons so that the pilferage can be reduced. Bags are even weighed; surprise checks are carried out and there is more efficient system of reporting back to their respective headquarters of any loss that has occurred and that is reducing the amount of pilferage.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: I fully realise the enormous efforts that the FCI is making in storing as well as in transporting the foodgrains from one part of the country to another and also the anxiety of the Hon. Minister in defending the loss on the floor of the House. I would like to point out just for your attention the recommendation of the Public Undertakings Committee. This is the recommendation of the Public Undertakings Committee—they have said that whatever storage capacity they have created, is not being used. In fact, they have mentioned here: "The average utilization of storage space was as low as 74.4 per cent during 1979-80." So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether, as a result of the space that is being created in godowns not being used, the loss is increasing. Moreover, this Committee has also recommended the creation of more godowns, so that the present system of hiring godowns is discontinued.

What is the reaction of the Government?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The FCI, the Central Warehousing Corporation as well as the State Warehousing Corporations have created a very big storage capacity. There is also a programme for increasing it during the 6th Plan. I think it is not on account of storage facilities that the loss is so much. There are cer-

tain constraints, e.g. the procurement takes place only in the surplus States, and from every market. It takes some time for paddy and wheat to be moved to larger godowns. Paddy, for instance, has to be kept even under open storage for some time. That also results in losses; but I do not know what can be immediately done to find storage for all paddy that can be procured. That is an operation which takes place during a very short span of time. It is not a question of moving all things immediately. There is so much of pressure on Railways. We have to keep our distribution system also going. Also, during the procurement season, we have to get additional help from the Railways. And there are limitations to that. I do not know what the hon. Member has in mind when he says that on account of storage not being used by FCI, loss is taking place. If he has got any particular godown in mind, which should be utilized by FCI, he can send his suggestion. I will take it into consideration.

The anxiety of the Minister is this: while he sees to it that the Administration is efficient and that people who indulge in malpractices or do not do their duty properly are punished, it is also the Minister's duty to see that an organization is not demoralized on account of undue criticism. Therefore, I have got to defend the organization, where I find that the criticism is not well-directed.

श्री राम विलास पासवान: अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय को तो जगा दीजिए ।

MR. SPEAKER: To sleep is not unparliamentary. If one snores, it becomes unparliamentary.

श्री मलिक एम. एम. ए. खां : अध्यक्ष महोदय, 1973-74 में फूड कारपोरेशन में ट्रांसिट एंड स्टोरेज लॉसिज 2 परसेंट से ज्यादा थे। अभी अभी मंत्री महोदय ने बताया कि सिर्फ स्टोरेज लॉसिज 7 परसेंट है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि फूड कारपोरेशन ने ट्रांसिट एंड स्टोरेज लॉसिस में से खाली स्टोरेज लॉसिज 7 परसेंट किस तरीके से निकाले हैं और उन लॉसिज को वाइफरकेंट कैसे कर दिया है। ट्रांसिट एंड स्टोरेज लॉसिज कमेट्री की रिपोर्ट है कि जो

व्हीट मई और जून में प्रोक्क्यूर होता है, उसमें लॉसिज का सवाल ही पैदा नहीं होता, बल्कि गोडउन में आने के बाद, स्टोरेज करने के बाद, व्हीट एक्सेस हो जाना चाहिए। मई और जून में व्हीट को प्रोक्क्यूर किया जाता है, जबकि वह बिल्कुल सूख जाता है। बरसात में उसमें मायस्वर बढ़ जाएगा। 1973-74 में ट्रांसिट एंड स्टोरेज लॉसिज 2 परसेंट से ज्यादा थे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि काली स्टोरेज लॉसिज 7 परसेंट किस स्टोरेज लॉसिज कमेटी की रिपोर्ट है कि जो हूँ कि लॉसिज कितने हों रहे हैं और क्यों और उन्हें खत्म करने के लिए गवर्नमेंट क्या मेजर्ज ले रही है।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : मैं मानता हूँ और अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप भी जानते हैं कि गेहूँ सूखने के बाद भी और फर्दर सूखता है, घटता है, लेकिन म्वायस्वर की वजह से बरसात में जरूर वजन में कुछ बढ़ जाता है। लेकिन यह कहना गलत है कि स्टोरेज में वह बढ़ जाना चाहिए। बढ़ने का सवाल पैदा नहीं होता है बल्कि दूसरी तरफ कोई चीज जब हंडल की जाती है.....

श्री मलिक एम. एम. ए. खा : हमारा तो बढ़ जाता है, आपका नहीं बढ़ता होगा क्योंकि आप बड़े किसान हैं और अब आप हो गए हैं मिनिस्टर, इसलिए अपने डिपार्टमेंट को डिफेन्ड कर रहे हैं। मिनिस्टर के गोडाउन्स में वजन नहीं बढ़ता होगा।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : मेरा यहां भी वजन बढ़ जाया करता था जब हीण्डया से लेकर गोडाउन में डाला करते थे।

श्री मलिक एम. एम. ए. खा : अगर ठीक से रास खलिहान से गोदाम में चली जाए तो वजन जरूर बढ़ जाएगा। मैं इस बात को मानने के लिए तैयार नहीं हूँ।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : अब आगे कोई बात कहने के लिए नहीं है।

Stagnation in Sea Food Industry

*862. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD:

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sea food industry in the country is suffering from stagnation and is in a mess; and

(b) whether Government propose to decide on a national fishery policy to provide direction for future growth of the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) India's marine fish landing in the last three years as reported by the State Governments have been as follows:

	Lakh tonnes
1979	14.92
1980	15.48
1981	16.68 (Provision)

(b) The Policy on fishery development already exists and is reflected in various programmes and schemes of the Sixth Five Year Plan.

SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: The idea of putting this question was, according to my finding, the deep sea fishing industry has gone through a slump. Obviously, the Ministry's findings are otherwise. It is very heartening to know that. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that neighbouring maritime countries like Taiwan, Korea, Thailand and even Japan have built up their fishing fleets and it is said are active in fishing in Indian territory. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how our fishing fleet stands in comparison with the above mentioned countries which are far smaller than ours in almost all respects; and what are the immediate plans to improve the industry and activate it?

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: To a certain extent, the hon. member is correct. I want to tell him that after the exclusive economic zone has been declared, we have got 2 million sq. km. area and we have got vast area for fishing. Our estimate is that 45 lakh tonnes of fish area to be exploited, but there are getting only 15-16 lakh tonnes; also our traditional non-mechanised sector contributes 63 per cent; mechanised —36 per cent and the deep sea fishing trawler less than 1 per cent;