

जो फिगर्स मंत्री जी ने बताई है उसके हिसाब से कितनी दुकानें बनी हैं और क्या उन दुकानों का अलाटमेंट पूरा हो गया है और क्या-क्या रियायतें उन लोगों को दी गई हैं ?

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन : सात साल से अभी तक 1295 शाप्स एलाट की गई हैं जिनमें 160 शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट्र्स और ट्राइब्स को दी गई हैं। लिमिटेड टैंडर होने के कारण उनको कंसेशनल रेट पर ही मिलती हैं।

श्रीमती प्रमिला दण्डवते : डी०डी०ए० द्वारा जिन किसानों की जमीन एकवायर की गई हैं उनकी मांग थी कि उनके परिवार के किसी न किसी सदस्य को एक शाप भी मिले, उनको भी कुछ मिलना चाहिए। मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि कितनी परसेंट शाप्स ऐसी एफैक्टिव फैमिलीज को दी गई हैं ?

अगर मार्किट में कंज्यूमर प्रोडक्शन सेंटर खुलवाना कोई कंज्यूमर आर्गनाइजेशन चाहे तो क्या उसको भी कंसेशनल रेट पर कोई दूकान मिलती है ?

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन : पट्टेदारों को कोई दूकानें मिली हैं या नहीं इसकी सूचना भी मेरे पास नहीं है। लेकिन जिन लोगों की जमीनें एकवायर हुई हैं उनके वास्ते दस परसेंट रिजर्वेशन है। हैडीकैण्ड के लिए पांच परसेंट है, एक्स-सर्विसमैन के लिए दो परसेंट है और एक परसेंट फ्रीडम फाइंडिंग के लिए है।

Rice in Price of Coconut

*313. SHRI T.R. SHAMANNA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the price of coconut has gone up abnormally high ;

(b) the reasons for this abnormal rise ; and

(c) the steps taken to bring down the price of coconut to reasonable level as this is an essential commodity in South India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Government are aware that unprecedented drought in the major coconut growing areas of Kerala and Tamil Nadu and parts of Karnataka during 1982-83 and continuing incidence of root (wilt) and certain other diseases had serious adverse effects on the production of coconuts last year leading to a substantial increase in the prices of coconut.

(c) Various steps including centrally sponsored schemes and Coconut Development Board Projects besides development project with World Bank assistance are being implemented to increase coconut production which will contribute to bring down the price to a reasonable level.

SHRI T.R. SHAMANNA : Sir, coconut is an essential food product particularly in South India—Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. No food is complete in average South Indian home without coconut. It is used in food preparations in the form of copra (dry coconut) or tender coconut.

Unfortunately, the cost of coconut which was Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.50 per coconut last year has risen to Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 5.50 per coconut. This is abnormally high. In addition to the two reasons given by the Minister, namely drought and root wilt disease, I am told that a large quantity of coconut is being exported in the form of copra or tender coconut or some dry powder extracted from the essence of copra is also exported. Middle class people and poor people are particularly finding it very difficult to use coconut which is essential in their food items, because of the high cost.

May, I, therefore, request the Government to see that the cost of coconut is brought down ? I find in Karnataka particularly, large areas have been brought under coconut. Large number of coconuts are also coming to the market but still I find the coconut cost is very high. May I know the exact reasons for this high cost ? Will the

Government take necessary action to see that the cost of production is brought down to a considerable extent ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Firstly, the coconut and copra are not allowed to be exported. So, the hon. Member is wrong in saying that it is exported and, therefore, the price has gone up.

The main reason for the rise in prices of coconut is, as I stated before, because of the low production this year due to drought and root-wilt disease. The Government is very keen to increase the production of coconut in the country. Therefore, several schemes are taken up for the benefit of farmers. There are Centrally-sponsored schemes. The Coconut Development Board is also there. The Kerala Agricultural Development project with the World Bank assistance is being undertaken. Once the production increases, the prices will automatically come down.

SHRI T.R. SHAMANNA : A large quantity of tender coconut is used. I find nearly about 2 lakh tender coconut are used every day in Bangalore city alone. Since it is a commercial crop, I want that all steps should be taken to see that the price of coconut is brought down. The production of coconut must be increased and all sorts of diseases that are there are removed. I find that no effective steps are taken to remove the diseases, to see that the yield increases and also to see that the quality of coconut is improved. I want that special attention should be given to this important factor. I want an assurance from the hon. Minister as to whether all these steps will be taken and, if necessary, to appoint experts to find out the reasons for the low production, causes for the diseases and how to increase the production.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : It is wrong to say that no steps are taken to remove the diseases and to increase the production of coconut. In fact, various schemes, as I informed the House just now, are undertaken by the Government. Our scientists are working for the removal of root-wilt diseases which have cropped up in Kerala and other parts of the country.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN : It is true that the Government is taking necessary steps to increase the production of coconut. But, at the same time, may I know from the hon. Minister how many schemes as recommended by the Coconut Development Board, are still not cleared by the Central Government ? Without clearing the projects, how can we improve the coconut production in the country ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Almost all schemes have been cleared by the Government. There may be some schemes which may be under examination of the Government of India.

Lower Lagyap Hydel Project, Sikkim

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*317. **SHRI R.P. DAS :**
SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Lower Lagyap Hydel Project at Ranipal, Sikkim has been completed and is likely to be handed over to the State Government on 31st March, 1984 ;

(b) if so, how many employees (work-charged) are likely to be rendered surplus in that project ;

(c) whether Government are taking steps to absorb the surplus work-charged staff of Lower Lagyap Hydel Project, Sikkim in alternate jobs ; and

(d) whether such absorbed staff will be given pay and service protection as per the assurance given by official side to the staff representatives in a meeting held on 12 and 14 November, 1983 in the Lower Lagyap Hydel Project, Ranipal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The Lower Lygyap Hydel Project in Sikkim has been completed. The Project is proposed to be transferred to the Government of Sikkim with effect from the 1st April, 1984 for