

उनके लिये स्वतन्त्र रोजगार का यह एक उपाय हो सकता है ।

PROF. SHER SINGH: Is it relevant to the main question, Sir? The main question is: about marginal farmers and landless labourers in Madhya Pradesh.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह प्रश्न मध्य प्रदेश में मार्जिनल फार्मर्स और लैंडलेस लेबरर्स के बारे में है । अगर आदिवासियों के बारे में विशेष रूप में आप पूछना चाहते हैं तो उसका नोटिस भेज दीजिये ।

RE: QUESTION No. 568

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: The report of the Joint Committee on Central Council of Homoeopathy has been submitted. I, therefore, do not want to ask this question.

SHRI R. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: He is depriving us of the opportunity of asking questions.

MR. SPEAKER: What can I do? He (Mr. Mehta) is not asking the question.

व्यापारियों के पास अनाज के स्टॉक की सीमा के बारे में भारतीय खाद्य निगम को आदेश

* 569. श्री धनशाह प्रधान : क्या कृषि मंत्रों यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने खाद्य निगम को, खुले बाजार में खाद्यान्न की बिक्री हेतु व्यापारी वर्ग को अनाज के स्टॉक की सीमा के बारे में कोई आदेश दिये हैं ; और

(ख) तत्सम्बन्धी मुख्य व्यौरा क्या है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). The Government of India

have not issued any specific instructions to the Food Corporation of India in the matter. However, the Orders issued by the State Governments for the purpose of take over of wholesale trade in wheat provide for the elimination of wholesalers and for the regulation of the quantity of wheat that may be purchased, sold or stored by retailers for sale to consumers.

श्री धनशाह प्रधान : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार द्वारा इन आदेशों की अवहेलना करने वाले व्यापारियों को पकड़ा गया है क्या ? यदि हाँ, तो किस खाद्य पदार्थ की बिक्री पर कितने व्यक्ति पकड़े गये हैं और उनके विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ? इन पकड़े गये व्यक्तियों में से राज्यवार कितने हैं, तथा लाइसेंस होल्डर और नान-लाइसेंस होल्डर द्वारा कितनी सीमा तक खाद्य पदार्थ रखे जा सकते हैं ? जैसे आजकल ब्लैक चल रहा है चीनी, चावल, दाल, तिलहन, आदि में इन ब्लैक करने वाले लोगों के खिलाफ आप क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रहे हैं ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Orders have already been issued to the wholesale trade and traders prohibiting them from operating as wholesalers and they have come into existence recently. Naturally, if they contravene the orders, necessary action will be taken against them.

As far as the retailers are concerned, particularly, the limits are—of course, they vary from State to State—that the retailers are permitted to purchase ten quintals and store upto 25 quintals. In the case of Punjab and Haryana, the limits are higher.

श्री धनशाय प्रधान : क्या यह सही है कि आज बाजार में जहाँ लाइसेंस होल्डर हैं,

वहां शक्कर दो रुपये किलो और जहा लाइसेंस होल्डर नहीं है, वहां चार रुपये किलो के हिसाब से बिकती है ; यदि हां, तो क्या मंत्री महोदय आज ही यह आदेश देंगे कि शक्कर सारे बाजार में दो रुपये किलो के हिसाब से बिके ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:
This does not relate to sugar.

This question is about foodgrains.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह प्रश्न चीनी से सम्बन्धित नहीं है ।

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH:
May I know whether the Government have taken any steps to strengthen the Food Corporation of India since the whole-sale trade is going to be handed over to the Food Corporation and may I also know whether it is a fact that the Government want that the wholesalers who have been deprived of their trade, be asked to register themselves as retail traders? If that is so, do the Government hope that the mal-practices that were indulged in by these people will no longer be there by appointing them as retailers?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:
Our policy and advice to the State Government is, not to register wholesalers as retailers, but, in some cases, where some employees were working for the wholesalers, perhaps some sympathetic consideration may be given by the State Governments in treating them as retailers. But, by and large, our approach is not to give licence or register those who are dealing in wholesale trade, as retailers... (Interruptions).

As the Food Corporation is going to shoulder a great responsibility, we are trying to review the position from time to time and all necessary steps are being taken from the point of administration and also with regard to strengthening the Food Corporation's

field staff. Necessary steps are being taken and a State-wise review is being done.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Since the Government of India has taken the decision to take over the wholesale trade in foodgrains—the Government of India deserves to be congratulated—may I know whether the Food Corporation of India has been given sufficient funds? May I also know as the take-over involves a lot of arrangements to be made, whether the Food Corporation has been asked to make sufficient arrangements to procure and purchase the foodgrains is quickly as possible, on the eve of the harvesting?

The second thing I want to know is whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the reports that the wholesalers who are now out, are doing propaganda among the farmers not to co-operate with the Government?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:
As far as financial arrangements are concerned, the State Bank of India has provided accommodation—cash-credit accommodation—upto a limit of Rs. 600 crores to the Food Corporation to handle the take-over of the wholesale trade in wheat and even if the Food Corporation requires more funds, funds will never be a limiting factor and the Government will take adequate steps to see that adequate and necessary funds are provided to the Food Corporation of India.

As far as non-co-operation of certain elements, we have some information that some elements are trying deliberately to create confusion and are trying to see that some impediments are put in the way. But, we have alerted the State Governments. We have taken care to see that a very large number of purchasing centres are made available within a radius of five to ten miles in a number of States so that the farmers are not

required to go long distances. The number of such centres are much more than the normal established mandies and we have also made arrangements to see that prompt payment is made to the farmers.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Co-operation of political parties also should be taken.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Yes, their co-operation also will be taken.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: I would like to know whether after the take-over of the foodgrains trade by the Government itself and elimination of the middlemen, there will be any reduction in the prices of wheat as far as retail trade is concerned and whether the FCI has taken due note of it and I would also like to know whether food packages will be supplied to ordinary consumers.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The whole scheme has been worked out with a specific purpose in mind because the hon. Member himself is aware that distortions are developing in the food economy of India from time to time and middlemen used to trade on the misery of the people and so wide fluctuations in the price structure used to develop. The scheme which has been formulated by the Government will go a long way in providing stability to the food economy of this country. So the interest of the consumers and the producers will be protected. And, as far as the specific suggestion of the hon. Member is concerned, about package, it is a good suggestion. It will be examined.

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : क्या यह सही नहीं है कि खाद्यान्नों के थोक व्यापार का सरकारीकरण किये जाने के बाद बड़े बड़े व्यापारियों के यहां काम करने वाले कर्मचारी बेकार हो गये हैं ? खाद्यान्नों के थोक व्यापार को अपने हाथ में

लेते समय क्या सरकार ने इस बात का ध्यान रखा है कि गेहूं को पदा करने में काश्तकारों की जो लागत लगती है, फूड कारपोरेशन आफ इण्डिया उसके मुताबिक कीमत दे ; यदि नहीं, तो क्या सरकार इस सम्बन्ध में क्या व्यवस्था करने जा रही है ? मंत्री महोदय को मालूम होगा कि सरकार ने 76 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल का भाव निश्चित किया है, जब कि एक क्विंटल गेहूं पैदा करने के लिये काश्तकार के 109 रुपये लगते हैं ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: So far as the first part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, it is a separate question. Q. 577 is there which refers to this specific subject. Regarding the other part of the question, the Government had appointed a Committee to go into the cost structure, that means, the handling and other costs and it will go into the whole economies wherever possible to have maximum economy in the working of the Food Corporation of India. But, at the moment our procurement price is Rs. 76 and issue price is Rs. 78. That does not affect in any way the consumers' interest since Government subsidises very heavily in the interest of the consumers.

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : मेरा प्रश्न काश्तकारों के हितों के बारे में है। मैंने पूछा है कि क्या काश्तकारों को उनकी लागत से कम पैसा दिया जाता है, यदि हां, तो उसके सम्बन्ध में सरकार क्या कदम उठाने जा रही है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: This was examined by the Agricultural Prices Commission. Even cost structure was gone into specifically at the instance of the Government of India. They have gone into it deeply. These prices have been determined on the basis of the advice of experts and economists and farmers' interests

have been taken into consideration. There is no need to fear that production will suffer because farmers' interests have been protected. The present level of prices has been due to the drought and that need not be taken into consideration and compared as far as this aspect is concerned.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : गल्ले का थोक व्यापार सरकार द्वारा अपने हाथ में लिये जाने के परिणामस्वरूप होलमेलर्ज के यहां काम करने वाले मुनीम, पल्लेदार तथा अन्य छोटे छोटे कर्मचारी, जिनकी तनख्वाह ज्यादा नहीं है, बेकार हो रहे हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार उनको काम देने की व्यवस्था करेगी। जो सरकारी अफसरान किसानों से सरप्लस गल्ला खरीदने के लिये जायेंगे, क्या वे सरकारी रुआब से खरीदेंगे या खरीददार की हैसियत से खरीदेंगे? क्या वगैर सरकारी रुआब के मार्केट की डिमांड के अनुसार किसानों को उनके गल्ले की कीमत दी जायेगी, या सरकार अपने आदमियों को भेज कर रुआब के साथ किसानों से गल्ला खरीदेंगी?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: About unemployment, there is a separate question.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे सवाल का इससे पूरा सम्बन्ध है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I am at your disposal, Sir.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य यह सवाल "बाड आउटलाइन्ज" के मिलसिले में पूछ रहे हैं।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Government does not contemplate to take over the entire foodgrains trade. If people of small means are there the State Government can give them

licenses as retailers. Their cases can be considered sympathetically. As far as purchases are concerned, we deal with marketed surplus, that is, those which have been brought by the farmers themselves in the market. If any State Government wants to help them, they can always do so.

श्री बिभूति मिश्र : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरे सवाल का जवाब नहीं आया। मैंने यह पूछा था कि जो सरकारी नौकर सरप्लस गल्ला खरीदने के लिए जायेंगे वह सरकारी रुआब के साथ खरीदेंगे या खरीदार और बेचीदार की हैसियत से खरीदेंगे?

कृषिमंत्री (श्री फलरहीन अली अहमद) : मैं माननीय सदस्य को यकीन दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि जब हम गल्ला खरीदने के लिए जायेंगे तो खरीददार की हैसियत से खरीदेंगे, सरकारी अफसर के रुआब से नहीं खरीदेंगे।

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the farmers, particularly in Gujarat, are not in favour of taking over of the wholesale trade of wheat and rice? They have resisted in Gujarat. If so, the reason thereof.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I am sorry to say there are certain political elements in this country who are inciting farmers not to cooperate with the scheme. But, I think, the farmers will understand our appeal and will cooperate with us. They will not be victims to such false propaganda. I hope the Farming community will support it because it will protect their interests in the years to come.

SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether in regard to procurement the Food Corporation of India has made the small peasant as the target instead of the rich peasant?

SHRI ANNA SAHEB P. SHINDE: Since we have to deal with market surplus whoever brings in the market we will be purchasing from him—whether it is the small farmer or large farmer. Naturally, the interests of the small farmers are bound to be protected because whatever comes to the public agency will be available for distribution and the small farmers also make purchases during lean period hence food will be available to the small farmers in the lean period.

SHRI KARTIK ORAON: In ration shops, we find the same material sold in one corner at controlled rate and in another corner at 'black' rates. I would like to know whether any effective steps would be taken in the matter of purchase from the farmer and distribution to consumers to remove this dubious method of functioning.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: We are aware of these problems. In this entire scheme of takeover, distribution is really one of the most important elements. Our proposal has been to strengthen the distribution system. Naturally we have to do this in consultation with State Governments.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: This is a very important question there should be a separate discussion on this.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY: Have Government received information to the effect that wholesalers are trying to purchase wheat through their own men having got them licences and they finance the whole thing and keep the wheat at different places without yielding?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The scheme actually takes care of this problem. For instance, the maximum holding in many of these areas except in Punjab and Haryana is limited to 25 quintals. This is the limit provided to retailers. Then there is a stipulation that nobody can

purchase at a time on a day more than 10 quintals. These steps will ensure that the wholesalers will not be in a position to operate. But if there are any efforts to commit a breach of the law in spirit or letter, we will advise State Governments to take the necessary strong action. There are adequate provisions in the law for the purpose. The State Governments are armed with the necessary powers. They can take action against such elements.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: The hon. Minister has already made a statement that sympathetic consideration will be given to some of the wholesale traders whose wholesale trade has been taken over. If by making a survey we find that the small traders and small retailers, whose number is quite over-whelming, is sufficient to manage the whole show, why should such sympathetic consideration be shown to these wholesale traders? It is just like a patient asking for medicine and the doctor giving the very same medicine; it is just like the case of a rotten mango kept in a basket which will damage the whole basket of mangoes.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of rotten mango here.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Before asking this question, he should have carefully listened to what I had said. I said that if some *munims* and employees of wholesalers get away from the wholesalers and report that they are unemployed etc., we have advised State Governments to treat the cases of these persons with modest means who were employees of the wholesalers sympathetically.

श्री राम सिंह भाई वर्मा : अद्यक्ष महोदय, बड़े बड़े औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में जहां श्रमिक बस्तियां हैं, वहां दूसरे व्यापारी आकर अनाज बेचते थे, लेकिन अब वे नहीं बेच सकेंगे ।

क्या आप फूड कारपोरेशन को यह प्रादेश देंगे कि जो बड़े बड़े औद्योगिक क्षेत्र हैं, जहां श्रमिक बस्तियां हैं, वहां पेड़े और एडवांस ड के रोज़ घनाज बचने की अतिरिक्त व्यवस्था की जाय ताकि उन गरीबों का शोषण न हो सके ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: This scheme, according to my understanding, would benefit mainly the industrial areas, and therefore, for better industrialisation in the industrial areas, because, the foodgrains would then be available at reasonable prices in the industrial areas.

About the question on advance of stock, etc., the Food Corporation will take care of it.

श्री राम सिंह भाई बर्ना : मेरा यह प्रश्न नहीं है । मैंने पे-डे और एडवांस ड के लिये पूछा है ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: We make the allotments to the State Governments, and the internal distribution to the individual cities and towns, naturally, is the responsibility of the State Governments. But our advice to the State Governments would be to see that they should take adequate care of the industrial areas.

श्री राम सिंह भाई बर्ना : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा प्रश्न दूसरा है

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बहस में क्यों फंस गये हैं ।

श्री शंकर बयाल सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इन का सवाल कुछ और है और जवाब कुछ और दिया गया है — इस लिये आप से व्यवस्था चाहिये

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप बैठिये वे खुद व्यवस्था उठा रहे हैं ।

श्री शंकर बयाल सिंह : इन्होंने कहा है कि मेरी मदद कीजिये, इस लिये व्यवस्था उठा रहा हूँ ।

श्री राम सिंह भाई बर्ना : श्रीमन मैंने दो दिनों के लिये व्यवस्था करने के लिये कहा था । जिस रोज़ श्रमिकों को वेतन मिलता है और जिस रोज़ एडवांस मिलता है—उन दो दिनों के लिये सरकार की तरफ से व्यवस्था की जाय ताकि उन को सही दामों पर घनाज मिल सके ।

श्री शंकर बयाल सिंह : वरना उन का सारा पैसा शराब में चला जाता है ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: It is a suggestion for action. We will communicate it to the State Government.

SHRI NATWARLAL PATEL: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that so far as the present price policy is concerned for procurement our farmers are not satisfied, and that in almost all the wheat-growing States they have put in a demand not to fix the price of wheat at less than Rs. 100 so far as the farmer is concerned? I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal from the Government of Gujarat to increase the present price of wheat and fix it at a level of not less than Rs. 100 and, if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India to this.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I appeal to the hon. Member not to introduce any element of uncertainty into this, because, as I said, the Agricultural Prices Commission was consulted on this. Then it was discussed

at the Chief Ministers' Conference and the prices were announced before the sowing season. So, there is no question of reopening this issue at this stage. About what is to be done next year, that is a different matter. As far as the Gujarat Government is concerned.—(Interruption) Why don't you listen to me—the Gujarat Government itself was a party to these decisions.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me pass on to the next question.

भूमि की अधिकतम सीमा के निर्धारण का ट्रेक्टरों की बिक्री पर प्रभाव

* 571. श्री शिव कुमार शास्त्री : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कृषि भूमि की अधिकतम सीमा के निर्धारण में ट्रेक्टरों की खरीद में राज्यवार कितनी कमी आई है ; और

(ख) सरकार इस संबंध में क्या कदम उठायेगी ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b). There is a downward trend in the registration for tractors with the State Agro-Industries Corporations. Information received from the various Agro-Industries Corporations indicate that the fall in demand has been due to several reasons (i) higher prices (particularly due to custom, excise and other duties); (ii) uncertainty due to proposed land ceilings; (iii) drought conditions in some States; and (iv) tightening of

credit facilities, cumbersome procedural formalities and delay in sanctioning of loans by banks. It would not, therefore, be possible to indicate the actual shortfall in the demand and purchase of tractors in various States on account of imposition of ceiling on land holdings as such. With a view to enabling the small farmers to avail of facilities of mechanised cultivation, the custom hiring work of the State Agro-Industries Corporations and establishment of agroservice centres by entrepreneurs is being stepped up.

श्री शिव कुमार शास्त्री : श्रीमान, जो विवरण मभा पटल पर रखा गया है उसमें ट्रेक्टरों के खरीददार कम हो गये हैं, उस के लिये चार युक्तियां दी गई हैं—पहली, मूल्य अधिक होना, दूसरे—कृषि भूमि की प्रस्तावित अधिकतम सीमा निर्धारण के कारण अनिश्चित स्थिति, तीसरे—कुछ राज्यों में सूखे की स्थिति और चौ—ऋण मुविधाओं की शर्तें सख्त होना, बैंकों की तरफ से उस में बहुत सी पेचीदगियां हैं, मैंने प्रश्न स्पष्ट राज्यवार पूछा था अगर आप राज्यवार उत्तर देने तो सूखेवाली स्थिति खुद ही समाप्त हो जाती, जहां तक ट्रेक्टरों का मूल्य बढ़ने की बात है, किसानों के यहां भी जिन्स पंदा होती है, उस के दाम भी बढ़े हैं—इस लिये यह युक्ति भी ठीक साबित नहीं होती। जहां तक तीसरी युक्ति का सम्बन्ध है—बैंकों से ऋण लेने में पेचीदगियां हैं—आज आप कहते हैं कि वे बढ़ गई हैं, लेकिन ये तो पहले से भी थीं। इस लिये यह युक्ति भी ठीक प्रतीत नहीं होती। इस लिये क्या आप स्पष्ट बतायेंगे कि भूमि की सीमा, जोत की सीमा निर्धारित किये जाने के कारण ही ट्रेक्टरों के ग्राहकों में गिरवाट आई है ?