

public sector, not in the private sector. As for our tonnage, it is not one million tonnes; it has increased from a lakh tonnes GRT in 1947 to 26.40 lakh tonnes GRT now in operation.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: I am referring to ships of large tonnage.

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR: We have Lal Bahadur Shastri and Jawaharlal Nehru tankers of 87,000 tonnes. We have got another of 100,000 to 104,000 tonnes, the latest orders placed with a Yugoslav Shipyard are for two vessels whose tonnage would be 269,000 dwt each.

**Committee/Commission to enquire into working of Food Corporation of India**

\*663. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to set up a Committee or Commission to enquire into the working of Food Corporation of India so as to improve its efficiency; and

(b) if so, its composition and terms of reference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). There is no such proposal before the Government. However, a committee of officials has been constituted to examine the procurement and distribution incidentals of the Food Corporation of India. Statement laid on the Table of the Sabha gives details in respect of this committee.

*Statement*

A committee under the Chairmanship of Union Food Secretary has been constituted in the Department of Food with Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Secretary, Planning Commission as Members

and Managing Director, Food Corporation of India as Member Secretary. This committee will examine the procurement and distribution incidentals charged by the Food Corporation of India for handling the Central stocks of foodgrains.

The terms of reference of the committee are as under:—

- (i) to examine the reasonableness of the procurement and distribution incidentals incurred by the FCI in undertaking the various operations on behalf of the Central Government;
- (ii) make specific recommendations regarding the measures that can be adopted to reduce the unit cost of operations by the Food Corporation of India;
- (iii) examine the incidentals charged by the FCI relating to the operations undertaken on behalf of the State Governments, and suggest ways and means of reducing the same; and
- (iv) examine the present subsidy burden and its further continuance and recommend suitable measures that should be adopted in progressively reducing the burden of subsidy.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO: The hon. Minister has stated that a Committee has been appointed to examine the procurement and distribution incidentals charged by the FCI and the terms of reference of the Committee have a bearing only on the Financial aspects of the working of the Food Corporation of India. I would like to know whether there have been serious complaints of malpractice and corruption against the former Chairman of the Food Corporation and also against the Managing Director and whether it is not a fact that the Chairman of the Food Corporation had to make a sudden exit. Does this not mean that there was a *prima*

*facis* case against the Chairman? If so, what steps Government are taking to improve the administrative working of the Corporation and to plug loopholes that result in corruption?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** A new Chairman has been appointed now. If there are any specific suggestions the hon. member wishes to make, we would welcome them. As for the other issues, they were fully debated on the floor of the House.

**SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:** I did not quite follow. Are Government considering the charges that were made against the working of the Food Corporation when allegations were levelled against the former Chairman, and what is the stage of consideration? Is it not also a fact that there were charges against the Managing Director also and the same Managing Director has been appointed as Member-Secretary of this new Committee set up by Government? Why did not Government think it proper to appoint the present Chairman to the Committee? There must be somebody working as Chairman, as the hon. Minister stated, but he does not find a place on this Committee whereas the Managing Director, against whom there were serious accusations, is the Member-Secretary of this Committee, was not the present Chairman appointed as a member of this Committee?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** This committee was set up earlier. May I assure the hon. Member that if there are any specific charges against anybody, however high-placed he may be, the Government will not hesitate to take action against anybody. As far as the enquiry is concerned, the CBI is still making enquiries, and when the report comes, naturally, we will take the House into confidence. (*Interruption*) If there are any specific charges, nobody will be spared.

**SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:** Specific charges against the managing

director were brought before this House also.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** If there are any specific charges against anybody, I said we will go into them.

**श्री शंकर बयाल सिंह:** मंत्रीजी ने बताया है कि भारतीय खाद्य निगम के कुछ पदाधिकारियों के खिलाफ कुछ चांजिज घ्राये थे जिन की जांच हो रही है। जिन के ऊपर जांच हो रही है उनमें से कितने ऐसे अधिकारी हैं जो अभी भी भारतीय खाद्य निगम में काम कर रहे हैं? आप उनको जब तक उनके खिलाफ चांजिज की जांच हो रही है अपने पदों से हटा क्यों नहीं देते हैं, भ्रलन क्यों नहीं कर देते हैं?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** It is a suggestion for action. We will find out from the CBI whether for an impartial enquiry any such action is desirable. We will take necessary action.

**श्री शंकर बयाल सिंह:** चेयरमैन को तो आपने हटा दिया लेकिन पदाधिकारियों को जिनके ऊपर चांजिज हैं, आप रखे हुये हैं? ऐसा क्यों? खाद्य की समस्या को ले कर सारे देश में हाहाकार मचा हुआ है। सरकार इसकी गम्भीरता को बिल्कुल समझ नहीं रही है

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order, please. Mr. Sanghi.

**SHRI N. K. SANGHI:** May I know from the hon. Minister, in view of the serious irregularities in the working of the Food Corporation, whether they are thinking of bringing the working of the Food Corporation under the control of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, so that the matter may be put on a proper footing? Are you thinking in this direction and will you have any proposition to bring it under the accountability of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** This House has approved of the law and the Auditor-General has been authorised to go into accounts of the FCI, according to the amended Act which was unanimously endorsed in this House. As far as the current position is concerned, a sub-committee of financial experts has been appointed to go closely into the financial aspects of the FCI.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** In the course of the reply to the debate on the 4th September last, the hon. Minister of Agriculture assured this House that the entire matter in regard to the functioning of the FCI will be probed into and the facts will be placed before the House. It is about eight months since then, and in between, a vital decision of taking over the foodgrains trade has been taken by the Government. They have formed a committee and still the committee is examining the whole issue. I want to know, in view of the serious decision taken by the Government, whether this committee is going to finalise this probe quickly and make final recommendations soon and whether any interim report has been got from this committee. According to the audited accounts, 25 per cent expenditure of the FCI is wasted and 25 crores of gunny bags are given free to mills, rollers and traders. If so, what steps have the Government taken and may I also know whether an interim report will be given?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** The contention about the gunny bags is not correct obviously, because the wheat is being sold to the State Governments including the gunny bags. That has been the basis historically. But now, as the hon. Member himself is aware, all the products of the flour mills are to be taken over by the Government. They will have no freedom to sell, and the State Governments have been authorised to sell the products from the rollers and the flour mills through the public distribution system. Their freedom to sell it in the open market has been taken away. A small group of financial

experts are going into it and they are expected to submit a report within two months.

**SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** It is already eight months and it is going to have catastrophic consequences for the country. Why should they delay it by two more months to give their conclusions?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** A detailed examination of all the facts has to be made and I am prepared to place before the hon. Member if he wants the reasons they want more time, I also feel that financial experts should be given adequate time to examine in detail all aspects of the operations. If there is any kind of wastage, I do not agree with the hon. Member that wastage is 25 per cent. I shall be glad to have information on that from the hon. Member.

**Request from Rajasthan Government to take over relief work**

\*664. **SHRI P. GANGADEB:**  
**SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:**

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajasthan Government has requested the Centre to take over the relief work in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, whether the Centre has agreed to the proposal?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):**  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**SHRI P. GANGADEB:** I should like to ask the hon. Minister whether the State of Rajasthan has been able to utilise effectively the assistance given by the Centre for drought relief, and at the same time, what has been the contribution of the State Government in terms of money and effort?