

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?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: According to my latest information, the State Government has spent about Rs. 15 crores; about Rs. 11 crores have been advanced from the Central Government and with this money the State Government is doing its best to provide relief. The number of persons working on relief works has reached 6.98 lakhs.

SHRI P. GANGADEB: May I also ask whether the Government are going to introduce intensive dry farming as a measure of permanent relief from the continuous drought in that region and if so what are the broad details and the next step contemplated in this regard?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The steps contemplated are well-known: soil conservation, water conservation, afforestation and wherever possible minor irrigation. Some of these projects have already been taken up by the Rajasthan Government.

श्री शिवनाथ सिंह : क्या राजस्थान सरकार ने आप से यह आप्रश्न किया है कि पक्की सड़कों के काम को हाथ में लिया जाये और उसमें लेबर और मैटीरियल कम्पोनेंट जो आपने तीस परसेंट निर्धारित किया है, उसको एक्सटेंड किया जाये ताकि राजस्थान की भौगोलिक स्थिति को देखते हुये वहां यूटिलिटी की सड़कें बनाई जा सकें ? क्या आपने इसके बारे में कोई निर्णय लिया है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: The approach of the Government of India is not to take up road works, as far as possible, but to take up productive works. I have already submitted earlier that Rajasthan is one of the areas where people are subjected to recurrent droughts because of the weather conditions there and the only way is to provide permanent relief to people and that is possible only by

taking productive works. As far as productive works are concerned, we should like to support the Rajasthan Government to the extent possible. As far as roads are concerned our advice to them would be to reduce works on road because under Rajasthan conditions most of the roads get eroded and sometimes roads disappear in a short time.

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : राजस्थान में पिछले अनेक वर्षों से सूखा पड़ता आ रहा है। राजस्थान कैनल का काम भी अनेक वर्षों से चला आ रहा है। उसके सम्बन्ध में यह कहा जाता है कि ** (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. I am not going to allow it. I have not allowed it. There is no relevance in this.

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि वह सड़क बनाने के काम को प्रोत्साहन नहीं देना चाहते हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह इस सवाल से कैसे पैदा होता है ? माननीय सदस्य हर बात में पालिटिक्स को ले आते हैं। (व्यवधान)

So far as the remarks against some head of the State are concerned, they will not form part of the records according to the rules. And that is not relevant at all.

श्री फूलचन्द वर्मा : मैं रिलिबेंट सवाल पूछ रहा हूँ। जो कुछ मैंने कहा है, वह सत्य है।

राजस्थान की स्थिति वाकी देश से बिल्कुल भिन्न है। वहां पर लोग अकाल से मर रहे हैं। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि वह

सड़कों के लिये विशेष प्रावधान नहीं कर रहे हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय राजस्थान नहर को युद्धस्तर पर तैयार करने के लिये कोई विशेष अनुदान या ऋण केन्द्र से देना चाहते हैं, या क्या इस प्रकार की कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:
We have suggested to the Rajasthan Government that a maximum number should be employed on the Rajasthan Canal. I am glad that the Rajasthan Government is sincerely trying to implement our suggestion.

श्री मूलचन्द डागा : मैं यहाँ जानना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान जैसे विशाल राज्य में, जहाँ ज्यादा नदियाँ नहीं बहती हैं, और ज्यादा सिंचाई के काम नहीं किये जा सकते हैं, सरकार रोड्स के काम को उपयोगी क्यों नहीं समझती है, क्योंकि जब तक रोड्स का काम नहीं होगा, तब तक लोगों को काम नहीं मिलेगा और वे भूखों मरेगे।

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMFUD): May I just make the position clear? So far as construction of roads is concerned, we have not completely stopped the work of construction of the roads. The latest instruction issued, after consulting the Finance Department and the Planning Commission, is that whatever expenditure on the drought relief has to be incurred, that should be incurred on productive work. And where that work is available, then the question of construction of roads does not arise.

श्री राम कंबधर : राजस्थान में अकाल की स्थिति भयंकर है। मंत्री महोदय ने जवाब

में कहा है कि राजस्थान सरकार ने 15 करोड़ रुपये खर्च किया है और केन्द्रीय सरकार ने 11 करोड़ रुपये दिया है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि 11 करोड़ रुपये में से कितना खर्च हो गया है और क्या राजस्थान सरकार ने केन्द्र से और रुपये की मांग की है, ताकि वहाँ की जनता अकाल की स्थिति से छुटकारा पा सके।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:
I have said that Rs. 15 crores have already been spent by Rajasthan Government. Rs. 11 crores have been advanced by the Central Government. As the Rajasthan Government goes on incurring expenditure, naturally the Central Team which would be scrutinising the expenditure will, from time to time, make more advances.

Report of Working Group of National Commission on Agriculture regarding need-based minimum Wage for Agricultural Labourers

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*665. **SHRI BIBHUTI MISHRA:**
SHRI NARENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group of the National Commission on Agriculture has submitted the Report on the need-based minimum wage for agricultural labourers and creating more employment opportunities for them in the rural areas; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). The Working Group on Agricultural Labour constituted by the National Commission on Agriculture has not yet submitted its report to the Commission on various issues referred to it.