

ports, when the tankers come, it results in bunching of ships. Therefore, there are increasing delays in turn-round time. This is responsible for slow loading and unloading. I would like to know in this context whether this has also been responsible for causing damage to the foodgrain—their lying there for a long time causing deterioration.

**SHRI H M TRIVEDI** I would not be able to answer that because only the Food Corporation would know about the extent of damage, if any, suffered. So far as port delay is concerned, I would imagine that there is no real damage involved as far as foodgrains are concerned. The damage possibly occurs if they lie on the shore for a long time or if there are unseasonal rains or something the that.

**SHRI VASANT SATHE** On the ships, is there adequate arrangement for protection?

**SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI** Grains are imported in bulk. As far as the loading port is concerned, there is a survey carried out so that the grains are loaded properly and remain safe.

**SHRI JAGADISH BHATTACHARYA:** From my personal experience to some of the ports on the shores of the Bay of Bengal, Rameshwaram, Tuticorin, Paradeep, etc., I have found that these ports are not fully utilised even 50 per cent of the capacity is not utilised. It is my considered opinion that, unless coastal shipping is improved, proper utilisation of the ports cannot be done. I want to know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken to improve coastal shipping and what is the number of ships that are being acquired or made in this country to improve coastal shipping.

**SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI** This does not arise from this Question.

**SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER:** As the Minister is aware, there is a bottleneck in the Calcutta Port for want of proper dredging. It requires 40,000 cusecs of water to clear the silt of the Calcutta Port from the

Farakka Barrage. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether proper dredging and 40,000 cusecs of water in the lean period could be guaranteed to remove the bottleneck in the Calcutta Port. I want a categorical answer from the hon. Minister.

**SHRI H M TRIVEDI.** So far as maintenance of certain drafts in the river Hooghly by continuous dredging is concerned, we are carrying it out. There are dredging works carried out in Hooghly which would enable maintenance of certain drafts. As far as the release of 40,000 cusecs of water is concerned, I hope the hon. Member already knows the background.

**SHRI B V. NAIK** I want to know whether a comparative study in regard to the major and minor ports about utilisation of the handling capacity has been made and if so, whether the findings do not confirm that utilisation of the minor ports is much more efficient with reference to that capacity and if so what are the steps being taken to develop the excellent minor ports like Karwar by linking it up with the railway and providing other infra-structural facilities.

**SHRI H M TRIVEDI** The responsibility of the Central Government is only for the development of major ports. But, so far as the minor ports are concerned, we already have a National Harbour Board which meets periodically and the hon. Member must be aware that during the Fourth Five Year Plan period one minor port in each maritime State was selected for development as a centrally sponsored scheme. Karwar was one of them. But, unfortunately, the scheme did not progress during the Plan.

#### Raw Deal with Agricultural Labour

\*340. **SHRI B. V. NAIK:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the statement of the President of the

World Bank that the agricultural labour in this country is having a raw deal in comparison to all other classes; and

(b) if so, his reaction thereto?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):** (a) The Ministry of Labour, as yet, has no such information.

(b) Does not arise.

**SHRI B. V. NAIK:** I have asked not for any information about a statement made by the President of the World Bank. The question was about the Government's awareness of the statement and awareness is not the information. The question says:

"Whether he is aware of the statement of the President of the World Bank that the agricultural labour in this country is having a raw deal in comparison to all other classes."

I thought a very compassionate view was required, particularly, if the Ministry or the Minister had read the Indian Express dated 7th February 1975. The heading was: 'Mc Namara blames governments for neglect.' (Interruptions). I have no inhibitions about any persons—Americans or no Americans. Then, Hindustan Times—'Mc Namara Aid cuts will kill millions.' He is reported to have said:

'Mc Namara was critical of what he called the neglect of landless pool by the governments of the developing countries. The general income distribution in these countries is much worse than in the richer nations.'

Of course, he has made specific remarks, but I have no time to go into them now. Then, Tribune says—'Mc Namara criticises cut in aid by donor nations'....

**MR. SPEAKER:** Now, after hearing you, he is quite aware now.

**SHRI B. V. NAIK:** The question is not to bring in any name. The question is: does the Ministry of Labour concede the fact that the landless labour in this country is having an extremely raw deal and if it concedes that, what steps have they taken for the amelioration of the distress of these people? (Interruptions). Do we commit any sin by referring to an eminent American?

**SHRI PILOO MODY:** You should have referred to the name of Mr. Brezhnev and everybody will be in smiles.

**SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA:** He is referring to some of the observations which Mr. Mc Namara has made. They are general in nature and they have got reference to the developing countries without any specific reference to India.

In that statement he has talked about the unequal income distribution in these developing countries with reference to the landless poor. This is true. But the Government of India is aware of the fact that the condition of the agricultural labour is not satisfactory and, for that purpose, they have set up a Standing Committee on Agricultural Labour. It has held its meeting on the 17th November 1973 and it has taken a decision and two of its members have been requested to undertake studies on minimum wage legislation in different States and the effect of mechanisation on agricultural labour. Information regarding the conditions of agricultural labour is also being collected from the State Governments.

**SHRI B. V. NAIK:** Since the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that labour legislation is a concurrent subject, why is it that at least in those areas like Gujarat or in those areas where there is a President's rule, whenever we have reason to believe that the local governments are drag-

ging their feet in making applicable the Minimum Wages Act for agricultural labour, you do not come to this august House and legislate for the benefit of the agricultural labour and fix up like the State of Kerala—I think this would please my friend, Mr Sathe—a minimum wage for agricultural labour?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY)** Government as a whole, especially the Ministry of Labour are very well aware of the conditions of agricultural labour in this country. We do not want to learn from Mr Nemara of the conditions in India because we are aware of the conditions in India. With regard to this issue apart from the Minimum Wages Act of 1948 that exists there are other enactments which apply to agricultural labourers also. We are aware of the legislation passed by the Kerala Assembly with regard to these conditions and remuneration and regulating the conditions in regard to agricultural labour. We are quite happy about the legislation passed by the Kerala Assembly. We are looking into this aspect and we are also considering in what manner Kerala legislation can be thought of in this House.

**SHRI MADHURYA HALDAR** The conditions of agricultural labour is extremely bad. In your own State, Punjab Mr Speaker, Sir where maximum irrigation facilities are available the labourers do not get work beyond 140 days in the year. You can very well imagine the conditions of agricultural labourers in other parts of the country. They have nothing to work, they have nothing to earn for themselves and for their families. In view of this I want to know whether they have any scheme to provide work for the agricultural labourers for the whole year. I want to know whether agricultural labourers will be covered by the Minimum Wages Act. Recently the Kisan Sabha has demanded this. They have represented that either work should be provided for these agricultural labourers

throughout the year or they should be given one kilo of rice or of wheat for every person per day. What steps are the Government of India taking in this regard?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY** I have not been able to recollect the demand made by the Kisan Sabha and the recommendations. But there are already in the field of legislation various enactments like the Minimum Wages Act of 1948, the Trade Union Act, the Payment of Wages Act to agricultural farms run on commercial lines, the Industrial Disputes Act, the Employees Provident Fund Act etc. The workers employed in factories using mechanical power are also covered by Workmen's Compensation Act.

**SHRI LINFN BHATTACHARYYA:** He asked about Minimum Wages Act for Agricultural labourers. But the Minister is talking about so many other things this and that.

**MR SPEAKER** Order order. The question is about Minimum wages.

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY.** The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is applicable to the agricultural labour and the same is being applied to the agricultural labour here. In addition to it the Kerala Assembly has also passed a legislation with regard to the conditions of service for the agricultural workers, which is better than the Minimum Wages Act and we are examining this Act for the purpose of seeing whether we can also undertake such a legislation. We have also referred this to the various State Governments for their opinion.

श्री नाथूराम अहिरवार                      श्री  
मन्त्री महोदय ने बताया है कि 1973  
में एक स्टैंडिंग कमेटी का गठन किया गया  
है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या  
सरकार ने राज्य सरकारों से यह आंकड़े  
मंगाये हैं कि विभिन्न राज्यों में एग्रीकल्चर

का काम करने वाले मजदूरों को मजदूरी क्या मजदूरी दी जाती है ? क्या यह सही नहीं है कि आज भी देश में जो मजदूर किसानों के यहां काम करते हैं, बूक से पीढ़ियों तक उन का पैसा नहीं चुका पाते हैं, इसलिए उन को किसानों के यहां बेच दिया जाता है, और इस तरह आज भी देश में खेतिहार मजदूरों की गुलामी की प्रथा को चल रहे हैं यदि हा तो इन प्रथा को समाप्त करने के लिए सरकार ने क्या सक्रिया कदम उठाये हैं, ताकि एग्रीकल्चर में काम करने वाले गरीब मजदूरों को कुछ राहत मिल सके ?

**SHRI LAGHUNATHA REDDY:** Sir, with regard to the bonded labour also Government is considering to introduce a legislation for the purpose of abolition of bonded labour.

**SHRI SHARAD YADAV:** rose.

**MR SPEAKER:** I am sorry. The time is not helping although this is on an important subject.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Setting up of a new Konkan Coastal Steamer Service

\*324. **PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a move to set up a new Konkan coastal steamer passenger service on cooperative basis;

(b) if so, when the service is likely to commence; and

(c) whether the passenger steamer service will be conducted with fares considerably lower than those of the steamer service run by the Moghul lines?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (**SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT**): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

##### Shortage of Medicines at Gole Market (New Delhi) Dispensary

\*327. **SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR.** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the medicines prescribed by specialists and Dispensary Doctors are not supplied to patients in the C.G.H.S. Dispensary at Gole Market, New Delhi for weeks together;

(b) whether Government have received any complaints from the patients and the Welfare Officer attached with this Dispensary during the last six months;

(c) if so, what action has been taken on those complaints;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure regular supply of medicines in time; and

(e) whether any surprise visits have been made by Senior Officers of D.G.H.S. to remove on the spot grievances of the patients?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (**DR KARAN SINGH**): (a) It is not a fact that most of the medicines are not available in the C.G.H.S. Dispensary, Gole Market, New Delhi. At times, some items of medicines have gone short because of prevailing difficult supply position of medicines and escalation in prices.

(b) Five complaints, one from the Area Welfare Officer and four from beneficiaries of this dispensary were received.

(c) The complaints were enquired into. It transpired that due to the general country-wide shortage of medicines, the Medical Store Depots had not supplied a few items in ade-