

so much maize that we are not finding any market for that maize. So, there is no difficulty. I do not think the fears expressed by the hon. Member are justified by the situation.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : श्री मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि मक्का के दामों में कुछ वृद्धि हुई है। यह भी उन्होंने बताया है कि हमारे पास मक्का इतना भरा हुआ है कि हमें पता नहीं चलता है कि हम उसे कहाँ बेचें, किए मार्किट में जायें। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस मौसम में जबकि दाम बढ़ गए हैं, ग्राम जनता को खाने के लिए उचित दामों पर यह मिले, इसकी आपने कोई विशेष व्यवस्था की है या करने जा रहे हैं? मौसम के कारण जो दाम बढ़ जाते हैं वे न बढ़ें इसकी आपने कोई विशेष व्यवस्था की है?

मार्किट में तो दाम बढ़ जाते हैं परन्तु जो कार्तकार पंदा करता है उसको जो दाम मिलते हैं, उन में कोई वृद्धि नहीं होती है। जो दाम आपने बांध रखे हैं उन से भी कम दामों पर आप उससे खरीद लेते हैं या व्यापारी खरीद लेता है। व्यापारी कम दामों पर न खरीदे और आप भी उचित मूल्य पर और पर्याप्त मात्रा में उसे खरीदें, इसके लिए आपने कौन सी व्यवस्था की है?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : As I submitted earlier, maize prices, as compared to last year, are lower by 21 per cent. But we have got reports that in one centre in Madhya Pradesh and one centre in Bihar, there has been some rise in the market price. We are thinking whether we can unload some of the maize held by the Food Corporation in those centres so that the price rise is checked.

In regard to the complaint of the hon. Member that foodgrains are purchased at much cheaper prices from producers, the hon. Member knows that we have given an assurance to the farmers of this country that

as far as wheat, rice, etc., are concerned, we are purchasing them at procurement prices. It is a good thing for us that the Food Corporation is having a commanding position in the Indian market as far as food purchases are concerned.

SHRI K. MALLANNA : Production of foodgrains has risen. Blackmarketers with their black money and hoarders purchase foodgrains in the harvest season at lower prices and create an artificial scarcity of foodgrains by hoarding. May I know what action has been taken against these people?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I cannot say that black money is not invested by some people in the purchase of foodgrains etc. But I examined the position recently and I found that out of the total market arrival of wheat in Punjab, 95 per cent is purchased by the Food Corporation and very limited quantities are purchased by the food trade. The reason is that the element of speculation has come down. In the good old days it used to happen that in the post-harvest period prices used to slump and in the lean period prices used to rise, with the result that the speculator used to make profiteering. But because of a very comfortable position of Food economy and commanding position of the Food Corporation in the Indian market and the large-scale procurement by the Corporation, this speculative element has come down very much. I do not think the fears expressed by the hon. Member are, in and way, true in the present set of circumstances.

SHRI S. B. GIRI : The hon. Minister has said that the price of maize has gone down. May I know whether the Government is prepared to compensate farmers where the price has gone down?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : We are procuring at the procurement prices. The general price level has not increased, as I said. On the contrary, it has gone down as compared to last year.

Verification of membership of central trade union Organisations

*542. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND RE-

HABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had decided to have verification of the membership of the Central trade union organisations this year;

(b) if so, the reaction of various recognised Central trade union organisations thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to postpone the verification programme to some future date; and

(d) if so, the reasons for that decision ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. The membership of trade unions affiliated to the four Central Trade Union Organisations; namely, the Indian National Trade Union Congress, the All India Trade Union Congress, the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, and the United Trades Union Congress, is verified, once in two years, in accordance with the procedure for verification adopted in pursuance of a decision taken at the 16th Session of the Indian Labour Conference held in 1958. As the last verification was undertaken for the year ending on the 31st December, 1968, action has been initiated to conduct verification of membership as on the 31st December, 1970.

(b) Some of the Central Trade Union Organisation have requested the postponement of the verification as on 31-12-1970.

(c) and (d). The matter is under examination.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA : Is it not a fact that the present system of verification is so defective that it gives scope for such favoured unions to have inflated membership as happened in the case of the recognised unions in TISCO which can at best claim 2000 membership whereas they claim 22,000 membership ? May I know whether the Government will think in terms of drastically changing the present system of verification as recommended by the various Central trade union organisations ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : There is a divergence of opinion as to whether the

present system of verification should be continued or that the method of ballot should be adopted. In the last Trade Unions' Representatives Conference, this issue was raised and the leaders of three trade unions are meeting to find out a common formula. But, ultimately, about the verification method, if it is to be changed or modified, that will have to be done by the tripartite body which is likely to meet in August.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA : May I know whether the AITUC has placed a proposal before the Government that ballot should be done and the majority union should be recognised and that in the executive of the majority union, the representatives of the minority union be accommodated and, if that is so, will the Government consider that proposal ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : That also will have to go through the tripartite body which ultimately by consensus decides these issues.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : In reply to parts (c) and (d) of the Question, the Minister has said that the matter is under consideration, and specifically, in answer to a supplementary, he has said that this matter is under the consideration of three Central trade unions. In view of the fact that there is already a decision to have verification every two years, what is the reason that the verification is not going to be done this year ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : In the past, when there were General Elections, a request used to be made for some more time as during General Elections, the trade union leaders are engaged otherwise. We had conceded that request. We have already initiated the process. What we are considering is their request for a little more time.

SHRI RAJA KULKARNI : Is it not a fact that the organisations which have asked for a little more time are themselves split up and, therefore, they want that the verification should not be conducted at all ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : As I have mentioned just now, the AITUC has made

a point that they do not accept the present method of verification and they would like to have a change. Because of that this problem of verification is not being reconsidered. Reconsideration is given because in the past in the election year, usually some time was given for verification,

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the All India Trade Union Congress, CITU, HMS & INTUC have combined and unanimously passed a resolution which has been forwarded to the hon. Minister and it was placed as a document in the meeting of the Trade Unions with the Labour Minister that first preference should be given to the ballot and then only verification. Verification has been rejected by every one because the INTUC membership has been inflated for nothing....

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : Only by those who are in minority, Sir.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why are you afraid of ballot ?

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : They are afraid of ballot.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : We are afraid of bogus membership...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PILOO MODY : There are bogus members on both sides,

MR. SPEAKER : You are not asking a question, you are entering into a controversy...*(Interruptions)*

Don't enter into any controversy. This is a very bad way of argument.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I want to know whether it is a fact the AITUC, CITU, HMS & INTUC have unanimously passed a resolution and forwarded it to Government for implementation and acceptance of the ballot as the first preference and then verification as some other method. May I know the reaction of the Government?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : In view of the divergence of opinion regarding the method of verification, as I said earlier, whether we should stick to the present method or some sort of a ballot method should be adopted...

SHRI PILOO MODY : Secret ballot.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : I am rising on a point of order, Sir.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : No point of order during Question Hour.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA : Sir, I want a clarification.. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No point of order during Question Hour.

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : Therefore, as I was saying, this matter will be taken up at the tripartite meeting keeping in view the recommendation of the National Labour Commission as well as the views expressed by the Trade Unions. But, for the time being, the old method continues.

SHRI PILOO MODY : You must have secret ballot.

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY : Sir, verification of trade union is undertaken only to determine the representative character of the Union so that representation on various committees of the Government and national organizations is decided .

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question ?

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY : I would like to know from the hon Minister whether in view of the elastic attitude taken by the Labour Ministry in giving representation on various Committees, verification itself is going to serve any purpose in future ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : Whatever the representation is given, for the time being, on the basis of the declared verification four central organisations have been recognised.

SHRI PILOO MODY : Bogus.

tripartite body ; then alone that will be considered.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : May I know from the hon Minister whether only the four central organizations are being asked to agree to the verification and why other central organizations like the CITU are not being consulted ? Whether the Minister has any information as yet that the CITU which the Minister very well knows is also ready for verification because they have got a large number of trade union membership all over the country.

SHRI S. B. GIRI : Which is the Central Organisation which is refusing secret ballot consistently ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : It is not saying no. They say that the present method may be adhered to. It is not a question of saying this is good or this is bad.

MR. SPEAKER : It is a suggestion.

Production in Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : I want an answer from the Minister whether the CITU will be called for verification and whether the Government has not yet informed the CITU for the verification.

*543. **SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether production in Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi has increased ;

(b) if to, to what percentage ; and

(c) how it compared with figure of 1969-70 ?

SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR : As I mentioned, the National Labour Commission has made a recommendation regarding this verification procedure and as to who should get recognition. They have said broadly 10% of the registered membership having the full coverage should be considered for verification. If we accept this recommendation that will have to be accepted by the

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMAR-MANGALAM) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The overall production during 1970-71 was higher than in 1969-70.

(b) and (c). The installed capacities of the three plants of the company at present and the production during 1969-70 and 1970-71 are as under ;

Name of Plant	Installed capacity	production in 69-70	Percentage of capacity	Production in 70-71	Percentage of capacity
<i>Heavy Machine Building Plant</i>					
(i) Mechanical equipment	80,000 tonnes	10,357 tonnes	12.9	15,760.9 tonnes	19.7
(ii) Structurals	25,000 tonnes	14,105 tonnes	56.4	7,205.2 tonnes	28.8
Foundry Forge Plant	133,460 tonnes	28,151.64 tonnes	21	39,089.6 tonnes	29.3
Heavy Machine Tools Plant	278 units	27 units	9.7	28 units	10