

price of Rs. 105 and actually, in some States it has been introduced and, therefore, the rest would be at the rate of market operations. There also arrangements for purchasing from the producers have been made. As far as the implication of the hon. Member is concerned, that he has the freedom to sell at any price, is not correct. As my senior colleague has submitted already in the first policy statement some ceiling on prices is contemplated. At what stage, and how it should be done, the method of doing it, all these are various factors which have got to be carefully examined because any announcement by the Government should not result in pushing up prices higher and therefore Government would be careful in coming to any conclusion about this. The understanding is that there would be some ceiling on prices by the traders.

Setting up units for producing bread loaves in Public Sector

*776. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up units in the public sector for producing bread loaves;

(b) if so, the location of these units; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a biscuit and bread-wrapper plant in New Delhi also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) and (b). Modern Bakeries (India) Limited a Government of India Undertaking, has already set up 9 units for production of bread in the public sector at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bombay, Calcutta, Cochin, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kanpur and Madras. The company is also setting up 4 new units at Chandigarh, Ranchi, Indore and Bhubaneswar besides expending some

of the existing units. The Company is also conducting a survey on All-India basis for finding suitable locations for setting up of future plants.

(c) The Company is considering proposals for setting up a protein biscuit plant and a bread wrapper unit. The location and other details are still to be finalised.

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: In view of the fact that there is acute shortage so far as bread is concerned and even the patients in the hospitals are not getting it, may I know what steps the Government propose to take to meet the immediate demands?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: It is not proposed to take up the whole thing in the public sector. Public sector unit is meant to show the way how a modern unit can be run and they are doing very well as the House will appreciate. I would request some of the hon. Members to pay a visit to some of these units if they can find time. There are so many private traders who are also engaged in bread manufacture.

SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Does he know that substantial quantities of bread are being smuggled across the border from Delhi to Rohtak and other places and Delhi bread is being sold in Haryana and U.P. at double the price? Has this come to his notice? If so, what immediate steps are proposed to be taken to stop this illegal activity?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: We have seen the reports of a general nature. In some respects they indicate the popularity of the Modern Bread.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Since bread is not available for the consumption of the people, especially the poorer sections of society, has the Government taken any policy decision not to allow the confectionary and private sector units and others to use or produce cakes and pastries

and to transfer the quota of the wheat for bread manufacture only so that the maximum production can be made?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: In the new policy there is no question of allotment of quotas. Producers will have to rely on their purchases from the traders.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: What about the production of cakes and pastries.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all over now.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the hon. Minister tell us how then the Britannia Biscuit Company could afford to increase their licensed capacity three times more unless, of course, they have diverted their flour bread production to biscuit production?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bosu, you had enough opportunity the other day.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: He is prepared to reply.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I require notice for this.

MR. SPEAKER: He takes special interest in these things.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Notice after 1976!

SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI: May I know from the hon. Minister what is the reason for excluding the Eastern region from the operation of the scheme and may I also know whether any scheme of modern Bakeries is going to be extended to this area in the Fifth Five Year Plan?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I would very much like to have the suggestion of the hon. Member. We shall carry out a survey and, as a result of that survey, if the economics of the scheme is favourable, we shall take notice of that.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: It is a matter of pleasure to hear from the hon. Minister that nine units are established and they are working in different parts of the country. May I know whether they are working to the full capacity? If so, what are the targets fixed for them and whether they have attained the targets or not.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I am happy to report to the hon. Member and to the hon. House that these public sector units are doing very well. Most of them are running upto the capacity. They were showing profits last year of the order of about Rs. 62 lakhs.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Sir, the House is interested in the targets of production. I too am interested in the targets of production.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I have replied that they are running almost to the full capacity.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you satisfied now?

SHRI NATWARLAL PATEL: Is it a fact that these big people in this country are using these breads for their use. Their housewives are purchasing the readymade breads from the market and are making use of them for their own household purposes. If so, whether Government intend putting a ban on such big people?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Sir, it is a suggestion for action.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: May I put one question? Will the Minister tell us why profits are living earned from bread by the undertaking?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Naturally, in the market, we are competing with the other units. If the Modern Bakeries sell the breads at lower price, that would result in unhealthy practices. In the private sectors, they are selling them at high

prices. If the public sector sell them at higher prices, then the hon. Members might criticise about the functioning of the public sector units. There would be a number of other implications. I do not know whether the public sectors units should at all be denied the normal advantage of the economic activities.

Rise in Issue Price of Wheat

*777. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that immediately after the announcement of the new procurement and price policy, the issue price of wheat went up by 40 per cent; and

(b) if so, what prompt action is proposed to bring down the issue prices of wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) and (b) Consequent from the increase in the purchase price of wheat, the Central issue price of wheat has been revised to Rs. 125/- per quintal for all varieties against Rs. 90/- and Rs. 96/- per quintal for common and superior varieties fixed earlier.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I put my supplementary, I would like to bring to your notice that he has not replied part (a) of the question at all. I shall put my supplementary after he replies to part (a) of my question.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask that through your supplementary.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I think he has forgotten part (a) of my question. Let him first reply to that.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I would like to submit to you that the hon. Member may be having a different view. I have tried to make a humble attempt to reply to his question. May be, he may have a different view.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Part (B) of the question is—

“What prompt action is being taken to see that the issue prices are brought down?”.

Not a single word has been given in reply to that. You may read the reply yourself, Sir. If not giving a reply is also part of the reply, then it is all right.

MR. SPEAKER: He says that he has already given the reply. Now, I leave it to the hon. Member to get the clarifications he wants from the the hon. Minister through his supplementary question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: In view of the 38.8 per cent rise in the issue prices as admitted by the hon. Minister, may I know whether Government would decide to provide adequate Central food subsidy so that the issue prices which have been raised can be brought down?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: We appreciate the concern of the hon. Member about the high issue prices, but I would again like to appeal to the House and to the hon. Member to consider whether this was avoidable at all, because it was the desire of this House that remunerative prices should be paid to the farmers, and it was an almost unanimous demand from all sides of the House; and everybody knows that it is in the national interest that production should not go down and no prices should be fixed which may discourage production or bring the economy of the country into difficulties as a result of lesser production. So, a remunerative price of Rs. 105 has been fixed.