

Proposal to subsidise installation of mechanical compost plants

*879. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

SHRI R. S. PANDEY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to subsidise the installation of mechanical compost plants; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

During the Fifth Five Year Plan period, the Ministry of Agriculture propose to give grant to the Municipal Corporation/Committees or Agro-Industries Corporations to the extent of 33 per cent. of the capital cost for setting up of 45 compost plants, in cities having population of 3 lakhs or above. An outlay of Rs. 6.7 crores has been proposed for assisting the setting up of these mechanical compost plants. In addition, the Ministry of Works and Housing have proposed an outlay of Rs. 10 crores in the Fifth Five Year Plan to assist the municipal corporations on the following items to setting up of mechanical compost plants:—

1. Financial support for technical personnel in the integrated scheme.
2. Non-recurring grant for purchase of trucks, wheel barrows etc.
3. Non-recurring grant for improvement of workshop facilities.

4. Non-recurring grant for construction of collection sites.

5. Non-recurring grant for providing mechanical sieves and other equipment to the remaining 95 class I towns.

6. Setting up project formulation Group/project management Group, Survey/investigation and field studies.

Financial assistance to the local bodies is proposed to be provided for the above items, at rates ranging from 25 to 50 per cent. of the computed deficiencies for these items. This is likely to raise the total subsidy element for setting up of compost plants to nearly 50 per cent. The remaining capital cost will either be met by the Corporations themselves or by raising loans from the nationalised banks.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now that there is a great shortage of inorganic fertilisers, and in view of the fact that the amount proposed to be allotted for the compost plants is only Rs. 6.7 crores, may I know whether the Government will consider the question of increasing this amount, or doubling this amount?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: After the said amount is actually spent, perhaps it can be considered.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: It is mentioned that cities having a population of three lakhs or above are going to be given this subsidy. There are so many cities which are having a population between 20 and 70 lakhs. I want to know whether two or three units will be established in such cities.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: It will all depend for instance for big cities like Calcutta, Bombay, etc., perhaps there would not be need to set up more than one compost processing plant. But after the first plant,

comes into operation, and we get some experience, perhaps this can be considered at that time.

MR. SPEAKER: There is another Member clubbed with this question. Shri R. S. Pandey.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: He may put his question.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY: I said, "Thank you very much."

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unusual on your part. Now Dr. Ranen Sen.

DR. RANEN SEN: There was a proposal from the Government of West Bengal to instal a mechanical compost plant in Calcutta in order to deal with two things; one, the garbage in the city that has accumulated or is accumulating every day in huge quantities and secondly, to provide manure for the country. May I know whether such a proposal has come from the Government of West Bengal and, if so, what is the reaction of the Government of India to such a proposal?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: We propose to help such proposals by giving a subsidy to the tune of 33 per cent. Actually, some subsidy would also be coming forward from the Ministry of Works and Housing. So, almost 50 per cent help will be available from the Central Government to any State including West Bengal for this purpose.

SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH: May I know from the Government whether, in view of the fertiliser shortage and also in view of the proposal to set up these compost plants, the Central Government is considering any legislative measures by which the garbage that is usually used for the reclamation purposes in the larger cities would be stopped from being

used for this purpose and would be diverted towards the manufacture of compost?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: If the concerned State Governments tell the Central Government that some legislative support is required, I do not think that the Government of India will hesitate to extend the necessary support for the State Governments for this purpose.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: May I know whether any assessment has been made as to what is the quantum of garbage that accumulates in Calcutta every day and how this garbage is disposed of, and whether it is a fact that the fisheries are being silted by this garbage—

MR. SPEAKER: This question is of a very general nature, and you are asking a very specific question about Calcutta. It is much better you give a separate notice for that.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: The scheme that the Central Government talks of is that—

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot put questions which ask for a detailed or statistical information. Do not take advantage of a very large question.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: The question is about installation of mechanised compost plants.

MR. SPEAKER: Not in Calcutta but everywhere.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: Calcutta is No. 1 city.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not sure about it; I think Chandigarh is No. 1.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: My second question is: Have the Ministry any plan to use...

MR. SPEAKER: It is not essential that when one question is irrelevant you have a right to ask a second one. Do not lead me to this practice. Please sit down now; you may have a better one next time.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE: He may answer to the first part of the question; it is very relevant; whether any thought has been given how the garbage of Calcutta is utilised for manure purposes.

MR. SPEAKER: I am still of the same opinion.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : कितनी राज्य सरकारों ने कचरा और मैले पानी से खाद बनाने की योजनाएँ बनाकर भाषके पास भेजी हैं और किस प्रकार की मदद आप से मांगी है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: My senior colleague convened a conference of Ministers concerned with this subject and the Government of India's intention is to help the State Governments to go ahead with the compost making plants, use organic manure etc. Now we have started receiving proposals from the State Government. Exact information is not with me at the moment. Now it is known to all the State Governments and they are processing the projects on this basis. By the end of the Fifth Plan year it is proposed to cover 45 cities with compost manufacture plants and to have 50,000 goobar gas plants in the country as a whole.

Fresh appointments instead of reinstatement of retrenched staff in FCI

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*880. **SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:**

**SHRI RAMACHANDRAN
KADANNAPPALLI:**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh appointments have been made in Food Corporation of India during the last three months

and more than 500 vacancies have not been filled while many have been retrenched; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the fresh appointments and not taking retrenched people?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):** (a) and (b). The Food Corporation of India has imposed a ban on fresh recruitment and no retrenchments have recently taken place. However, certain fresh appointments on a purely temporary basis had to be made to meet the emergent local requirements mainly at the Ports in the Southern and Western Zones. Retrenched employees who were from the Northern zone could not have been considered for appointment in these distant places only for a short duration.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: In the regional offices of the Food Corporation of India, especially in Madhya Pradesh and some other States they have written to the State Government to depute certain people for certain categories. Many vacancies are still there according to the answer to my question. But retrenched people are not appointed to those vacancies. The Minister has assured us that whenever a vacancy arose, they will be taken first. People with three or four years service have been retrenched. When vacancy arises in Kerala and other places why cannot they absorb those people in the vacancies that so arise?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:

First of all I should like to submit that no retrenchment is taking place now though it is known to the hon. Member that we have surplus staff; for instance our storage is only 30 per cent of the capacity but we are having 100 per cent staff. In certain ports in the south congestion developed and category 3 staff were required