

all that, whether machinery is arriving in time and also whether they have overcome labour troubles. What are the reasons for this optimistic reply?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) So far as the construction of the Bokaro Steel Plant is concerned, the position has substantially improved. That is the basis for our statement that we expect that we should be able to keep up the revised schedule, that is, the schedule as revised in the middle of 1969.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR My question was, what are the reasons for this optimistic reply. Have you overcome all the difficulties?

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM We have overcome difficulties.

That is why we are optimistic about keeping upto the schedule.

SHRI NIHAR LASKAR I would like to know whether it is not a fact that because of the delay in completion of the first stage of the Bokaro Steel Plant, the public exchequer is losing money and, if so, what is the amount that our exchequer is losing on account of the delay.

SHRI MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM Our assessment is that we lose about Rs. 25 lakhs for every month's delay. That is why we are naturally anxious that there should be no further delay and we should keep up to the schedule.

Fall in Target of Wheat Procurement

*250 **SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN**
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased state

(a) whether wheat procurement during the current marketing season (1971-72) is likely to fall short of the four million

tonnes target due to inadequate arrangements in respect of movement and storage of foodgrains, and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure speedy movement and proper storage of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P SHINDE) (a) No Sir, Although there had been some initial difficulties in the movement and storage of wheat, it is expected that the target of four million tonnes will be achieved.

(b) In addition to the normal movement of foodgrains, contingency plans have already been framed for movement of additional quantities of wheat by rail and road. The Food Corporation of India, besides arranging for additional hired godowns, is taking emergent measures including construction of plinths for temporary storage of wheat.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN The hon. Minister has stated that every arrangement had been made to complete the target of procurement of wheat. But the Minister of Agriculture of the State of Punjab has recently made a statement. He said that due to lack of wagons availability the wheat movement is very slow. He feared that they would not be able to reach the procurement targets. He had also said that due to the non-availability or inadequacy of the storage facilities there wheat in Punjab is spoiled, is getting spoiled and rotten during the rainy season. Therefore, what I would like to know from the hon. Minister is this. What measures have they taken with regard to the fears expressed by the Minister in the State of Punjab?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P SHINDE I have read the statement of hon. Minister of Punjab. I have had a talk with him. In consultation with the

Punjab Government we have worked out a plan of movement. We have worked out an elaborate plan of procurement, storage and movement. In the month of June we propose to move out of Punjab and Haryana 62 lakh tonnes of wheat. For the rest of the wheat, we have, in consultation with the procurement agencies, made arrangements for local storage.

SHRI C K CHANDRAPPA I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they have made a fool-proof arrangement, because, the Minister in Punjab had said it very clearly that during the rainy season, particularly by the end of June he feared that several lakhs tonnes of wheat are likely to get perished in rain because there are no protection arrangements and storage facilities. He also said that no wagons are available. I do not know what actual measures have been taken by the Government. I would like to know from the Government about those measures.

MR. SPEAKER Thank you very much for taking interest in Punjab.

SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE About the wagons, I may say there had been some difficulties because of the problems of the return of wagons from the eastern region. But the Railways are giving their maximum possible help and cooperation and therefore, as I said, a very ambitious plan of moving about 62 lakhs tonnes of wheat out of Punjab and Haryana has been taken in hand and this will be moved out in the month of June. Up to Monday last almost 2.4 millions tonnes of wheat had been procured. We have been procuring at the rate of about one lakh tons of wheat per day. So, we are trying to cope with the situation.

श्री मुल्की राज सैनी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, गलत के लाने ले जाने और अड्डार की उचित व्यवस्था न करने से किसानों को करोड़ों रुपये का नुकसान हो गया है, एजेंटों को

पेमेंट न मिलने से नुकसान हो गया है और साथ ही वर्षा में भीग जाने से सरकार को नुकसान हो गया है तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या सरकार ने उन अधिकारियों और कमचारियों के खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही की है जोकि इसके लिए जिम्मेदार हैं ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE The officers of the FCI have been instructed to take stringent measures against such cases. For instance in UP there were some difficulties because the market arrivals were 4 to 5 times more than previous year. The market arrivals were 400 per cent or 500 per cent of what was originally estimated by the State Government or the FCI. But now, I may say the situation has improved and we are attending to this problem.

श्री नाथू राम अहिरवार अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ क्या सरकार की जानकारी में यह दिवक्त आई है कि बोरो को स्टोर करने के लिए गोदाम नहीं है और किसान अपने माल का पैसा भी नहीं पा रहे हैं, किसानों की गाड़ियाँ गोदामों में घापिस जा रही हैं, कोऑपरेटिव सोसायटीज कहती हैं कि वे पैसा नहीं पा रही हैं इसलिए वे खरीद नहीं सकती हैं तो इस सम्बन्ध में किसानों को राहत देने के लिए सरकार क्या उपाय करने जा रही है ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE Punjab and Haryana Procurement is going on well. In UP there are some problems relating to serving district magistrates and local authorities. We have made certain arrangements. If there are any disputes the district magistrate would be taking final decision. The Food Corporation staff would be implementing those decisions.

श्री सिद्ध कुमार शास्त्री अध्यक्ष महोदय, पिछले कई वर्षों से अन्न लाने से

जाने के लिए जिन डिब्बों का प्रयोग किया जाता है, प्रायः उनको ठकने का कोई प्रबन्ध नहीं होता है जिसके कारण बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में गेहूँ भीग जाता है और फिर उसके लिए किसी को जिम्मेदार नहीं ठहराया जाता है। क्या इस समय सरकार की ओर से यह मावधानी बरती जा रही है कि ऐसे डिब्बों में गेहूँ लाया जाये जिनमें उसाई भिगने से बचाया जा सके? क्या इस प्रकार के आदेश दे दिये गए हैं?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P SHINDE There has not been much damage after the wheat is received in the mandis or in wagons. The damage has been considerable in the farms where it was harvested and lying in the open.

श्री आन सिंह शीर साहब, इस देश में पत्राब मबम बडा सूबा है जहाँ स कि सरकार की गेहूँ प्रोकार करना है नकिन अगर आप स्टेशनों पर जाकर देखिए तो हजारों गहूँ के बारे खराब हो रह हैं। इसलिए में पूछना चाहता हूँ क्या सरकार दूसरी जगहों से डिब्बे मगा कर स्पेशल ट्रेन्स चलायगी ताकि गेहूँ का वहा से उठा लिया जाए और इस नुकसान को बचाया जा सक ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB P SHINDL Special trains are also being run from Punjab and Haryana and as for the wheat lying in the station yards, there are instructions that it should be properly covered with tarpaulins etc.

Wanchoo Working Group's Report on Pricing of Aluminium

*251 **SHRI D D DESAI** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state

(a) the time by which Government would publish Wanchoo Working Group Report on pricing of aluminium,

(b) whether its recommendations will be implemented without any delay, and

(c) the steps proposed to ensure adequate and generous production of electrolytic grade aluminium and its distribution to priority industries to meet plan targets of electrification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAIH NAWAZ KHAN) (a) and (b) The recommendations made by the Working Group on Aluminium constituted to function under the Chairman Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government on these recommendations have been announced in Government Resolution No 5 (118) Met I/70 published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 24.5.1971. A copy of the Resolution is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library] See No LI 29371]

The Report of the Working Group was meant to be for official use only to enable the Government to fix the selling prices of aluminium and some of its products. However, as some requests from the aluminium producers and others for copies of the Report have been received the question of making copies available to them is under consideration of Government.

(c) The current demand of aluminium is estimated at 2,05,000 tonnes which is likely to go up to 2,74,000 tonnes by 1973-74. The present installed capacity for production of aluminium in the country is 1,68,850 tonnes per annum and it is proposed to set up additional capacity of 2,61,000 tonnes per annum (1,50,000 tonnes in the public sector and 1,11,000 tonnes in the private sector) during the Fourth Plan period. Thus by the end of the Fourth Plan or early in the Fifth Plan the installed capacity would go up to 4,29,850 tonnes which would not only result in self-sufficiency in aluminium but may also enable export of about 50,000 tonnes of aluminium per annum.