

factors into account. The problem is really complicated, but by and large, now a very sound policy is formulated and we are trying to give procurement prices which are reasonably remunerative.

श्री बी० पी० शौर्य : अध्यक्षजी, पिछले वर्ष को और इस वर्ष को देखा जाये तां करीब करीब सभी जरूरियात की चीजों के दाम बढ़ रहे हैं जो कि किसान के द्वारा उत्पन्न की जाती हैं। इस विशेष समस्या को ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या मंत्री महोदय कोई खास स्कीम इस तरह की बनायेंगे जिससे कि किसान को कम्परेटिवली उसी तरह के दाम मिलें जो कि उद्योग करने वाले को या अपने किसी दूसरे प्रकार के रोजगार में पैसे लगाने वाले को मिलते हैं ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : I repeat my assurance to the Indian farmers that we shall purchase all the grain offered by them in the market, wherever it is, at the procurement price.

श्री आर० बी० बड़े : अध्यक्ष जी, कौश क्राप और फूड ग्रेन क्राप में कम्पटीशन चलना है और कौश क्राप की ज्यादा कीमत आने से बहुत से किसान फूड ग्रेन नहीं पैदा करते हैं, और इसके लिये कुछ प्रदेशों ने कानून पाम किया है कि इस परसेंटेज आफ दी लैंड में फूड ग्रेन क्राप होनी चाहिये और इस परसेंटेज आफ दी लैंड में कौश क्राप होनी चाहिये। ऐसा कोई नियम बनाने के वास्ते केन्द्रीय सरकार विचार कर रही है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Shri Bade is an old friend of mine, but he is a little out of date. Nowadays as a result of the cultivation of high-yielding varieties the acreage under foodgrains is growing and not *vice versa*.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : Is the Minister aware that the Food Corporation swings into action some what late so that the farmers have to sell their crop below procurement price ? Could not the Corporation go into action when prices tend to go nearer the procurement prices ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : We do consider this factor.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY : Do Government consult farmers or farmers' associations while fixing the procurement prices ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : There is an advisory committee including some MPs. and some farmers. That is consulted.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN : Arising out of the answer against part (c), will Government consider the desirability of giving of some incentives to the farmers by way of increasing the procurement prices or reducing the price of agricultural implements and fertilizers to reduce the cost of cultivation taking the overall conditions in the country into account ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : The greatest incentive can be given to the farmers in two ways. One, by way of price, the way we are offering the price for the wheat and other commodities; because of that, the farmer's interest is being looked after. Second, fertilisers are also available at prices which are fixed by the Government from time to time.

MR. SPEAKER : Two questions have already taken 20 minutes. Next question.

Implementation of West Bengal Land Reforms (Second Amendment) Act, 1970

*1714. **SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any firm steps have been taken by the Government to give effect to the West Bengal Land Reforms (Second Amendment) Act, 1970; and

(b) if so, what ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) There is no Act under the name West Bengal Land Reforms (Second Amendment) Act, 1970. Reference seems to be to West Bengal Land Reforms (Second Amendment) Bill, 1970 which was enacted as the West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Act, 1971 (President's Act 3 of 1971). All the provisions of that Act excluding those relating to ceiling were brought into force throughout the State on 12th February, 1971 and those relating to ceiling on

15th February, 1971. Statutory rules under the enactment have also been framed and published.

(b) For the purpose of implementing the various provisions of the legislation, Sub-Divisional Land Reform Officers have been appointed as Revenue Officers. For determining the ceiling areas for irrigated and unirrigated lands, Notification specifying irrigated area has been issued. Returns have to be furnished by raiyats owning land in excess of ceiling area by 15th October, 1971. Instructions have been issued to local officers for securing speedy and effective, implementation of the provisions of the Amendment Act.

SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE : The number of the amendment was a mistake, but there was an amendment. Now, may I know from the hon. Minister how much surplus land has been recovered after this new ceiling amendment was enacted during this period of one and a half years, that is, after the fall of the United Front Government ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : The law has been recently enacted, and as I said in the main part of my reply, the time-limit fixed for declaring the surplus land and submitting statements is up to October. Thereafter, it will be possible to make an assessment as to what is the total acreage that will be available as surplus land for distribution.

SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE : The other day, the hon. Minister of Agriculture announced on the floor of this House that the Government has accepted the land ceiling recommendation of the Agricultural Reforms Commission, for the whole of the country, varying from 10 to 18 acres on a family basis. May I know from which date this new recommendation or decision is going to be implemented ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : I do not know whether it arises out of this question.

MR. SPEAKER : The main question is regarding the West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Act. You can ask about the amendment of the Act.

DR. RANEN SEN : Sometime back, it was announced by the Government of West Bengal that according to this Land Reforms

Act, certain lands have already been vested in the Government of West Bengal and they will be distributed to the needy peasants through the Block Development Officers or the JLROs. May I know whether anything has been done in this regard, this distribution of land, that has been vested with the Government of West Bengal, to the peasantry ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : The distribution processes are on, but I will have to ascertain from the State Government the actual, present position.

MR. SPEAKER : These are all specific questions which you could have added to the main question.

DR. RANEN SEN : It was definitely stated by the Government of West Bengal that certain lands . . .

MR. SPEAKER : I am concerned with the main question.

DR. RANEN SEN : He should have come prepared for answering the question as to how much land has been lying with the Government and how much has been distributed. This is a corollary to the main question.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : With due respect to the hon. Member, I am prepared to answer any question. Particularly we take the land reforms in West Bengal seriously. But this is an altogether different question. So, making an allegation that I am not answering is not proper.

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA : Arising out of the Minister's reply that the statement regarding surplus lands has to be submitted to the Government by the end of October, I would like to know whether the statement has to be given by all the tenants or whether there is any classification thereof.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE : The reference to October was in respect of the land owners who have surplus land above the ceiling. A particular time limit has been fixed and they to submit their return to the revenue authorities declaring how much, if any, surplus land they have got. Otherwise, the State will itself take the initiative and declare those lands surplus and take them over.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Although the Minister has made a statement that the landowners will have to submit a return about surplus land by a particular date, the notification relating to it has not been fully circulated in the rural areas. As the new Act is yet to be implemented and the old Act still remains, may I know whether it is a fact that lots of disputes are going on in this cultivation season, many sharecroppers have been dispossessed of the land, and many small cultivators have been illegally evicted and their lands forcibly occupied, and if so, what steps have the Government taken to mitigate this problem ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : Reports have been received that some of the tenants are being evicted as a result of the coming into force of this new amendment, and therefore, we have drawn the attention of the West Bengal Government to this and told them that all necessary steps should be taken to give adequate protection to the tenants. I would repeat that if the present law is found to be inadequate, we will not hesitate to amend the law to give full protection to the tenants.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : Is he aware of the fact that before this new amendment came into force, during the United Front regime in West Bengal, about 12 lakh acres of land were vested in the Government, but that those landowners went to the High Court and got an injunction as a result of which large number of peasants are still facing eviction, and if so, will he give retrospective effect to the law from the time the United Front came to power ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE : In a *sub judice* matter naturally there are several legal implications, and I cannot say anything in regard to cases pending in the High Court. But based on our experience, under the new law the jurisdiction of the civil courts has been taken away in regard to conducting these cases. We have enacted for the first time such a drastic law for ceiling as well as protecting tenants, which no previous Government—either the UF Government or any other Government—has done.

Capacity of Milk Processing Plants in the Country

* 1715. **SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI :** Will

the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether majority of the milk processing plants in the country are working at half of their rated capacity ; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b). The material is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha when received.

SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI : May I know whether it is a fact that most of the milk-processing plants are being run with imported milk powder and butter oil ? What is the annual requirement of milk powder to keep the existing milk processing plants running ?

SHRI SHER SINGH : When liquid milk is not available in sufficiently large quantities, then we do use sometimes skimmed milk powder, but not always. Also, there is a certain percentage beyond which we do not go.

SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI : What is the number of milk processing plants in India ? Is it a fact that annually about Rs. 1 crore are spent for importing accessories ? If so, what steps are the Government taking to manufacture them in our country ?

SHRI SHER SINGH : There are 108 dairy plants in the country. We have started, manufacturing the necessary machinery. We are importing only a few highly specialised items. Otherwise, we have started manufacturing them in our country.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I do not agree with the minister when he says that information is not available. Information about milk plants in the private sector may not be available, but what about the public sector plants.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : May I know whether Government is prepared to expand the rated capacity of the existing plants in the public sector and also instal new plants in the public sector ?

SHRI SHER SINGH : We have to collect the information from the various States regarding the working of these milk plants, whether