

among other things, the existing legislative and other provisions for the protection, productive employment and welfare of agricultural labour and to appraise critically the extent of implementation of these provisions with a view to taking remedial steps.

**SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:**

The answer of the hon. Minister takes us nowhere. Whereas the question relates to the enactment of statutory legislation in regard to the protection of agricultural labour, the Minister speaks of the constitution of a Standing Committee which does not serve any useful purpose. In view of the fact that the various provisions cited by him are all out-dated and agricultural labour is faced with so many problems in modern times, may I know whether the Government feels the necessity for a statutory provision, a comprehensive legislative measure, which will govern the welfare and protection of agricultural labour and all other labourers working in other allied fields, covering all the categories of the whole agricultural labour in the country?

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:**

Keeping in mind some of the specific considerations which the hon. Member has mentioned, this expert committee which is proposed to be constituted is for the purpose not only of going into the legislation and other aspects of the organisational problems but also of seeing in what manner the legislation will be able to introduce some element of organisation in the unorganised sector. That is the purpose. That is why I gave an account of the existing legislation and in what manner the expert committee is likely to deal with these matters after a proper study and, if necessary, in order to come forward with a comprehensive legislation on the matter.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Review.

**SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY:**

Study includes review also.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Question Hour is over.

### SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

**Crisis in Aralam State Farm, Kerala.**

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**5. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:  
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Aralam State Farm in Kerala is faced with a serious crisis as a result of workers' strike and the refusal of the Farm authorities to negotiate with the workers' representatives;

(b) whether Government have received a memorandum from M.Ps. of Kerala against the mismanagement by the farm authorities;

(c) whether the State Government have also represented this matter to the Centre; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take in this matter?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SINDE):** (a). Yes, Sir. However, the Farm management has not refused to negotiate with the workers. The demands of workers are in fact being discussed by the Farm authorities and the workers with the State Labour Commissioner. Of the four main demands, the workers had been persuaded not to press three demands and only one demand has to be discussed. This was to be discussed on 28th August, 1973.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of India have considered the matter and have constituted a Team consisting of Central and State Government officers, under the Chairmanship of the Agricultural Commissioner in the Ministry of Agriculture, to examine the working of the farm, with particular reference to the development of the farm, the financial management and administrative matters including Recruitment Selections, disciplinary procedures, etc.

**SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:** Sir, the Minister has tried to minimise the seriousness of the situation by depicting it as a mere labour dispute. But we were

asking about the serious situation that has arisen in the Aralam State farm because of certain very serious matters involved in it.

When the Central Government decided to set up a state farm with Soviet co-operation, the people were very happy because they thought that it would help in solving their food problem and all that. But what happened now is that this farm is running all the year round at a terrible loss. Moreover, I will not make a long speech.

MR. SPEAKER: He says he will not make a long speech, 'as if speech is allowed. Speech is not allowed; only questions.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Several thousands of acres of land newly reclaimed have been kept idle. The Soviet machinery which has been gifted to this farm has been kept under the sun and rain and is getting rusted and is not being utilised.

Some of the machinery had already been taken out of the State. The relation between the workers and the management is so bad that for more than a month the strike in that farm is continuing. The director of the farm refused to negotiate the matter with the labour commissioner and the labourers.

MR. SPEAKER: In view of all this, what is your question?

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: A spectacular thing had been done by the director. The State Government, the political parties, the trade unions and the entire people of the State are against the farm administration. In view of all this, will the Government immediately order the transfer of the director if it has not been ordered so far? Will the Government investigate into the conduct of the director and the serious situation created there for which he is responsible? Secondly, will the Government look into the affairs of the Aralam farm and the State Farm Corporation and consider the proposal to appoint as chairman a person other than an M.P. The Chairman who is also an M.P. today thinks he

is bigger than the Minister and he is running the farm as a mini-empire. . . . (Interruptions) He is Mr. M. R. Krishna, who was formerly a Deputy Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: You are making a very long speech; a short notice question is not meant for that purpose.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Government order the withdrawal of the action taken against the workers and employees and will the Government allow normal trade union activities and the right of employees to organise themselves? Lastly, will an advisory committee be set up for all the State Farms with powers to advise how the farms should be run?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: It is true that we are ourselves worried because of reports that the relationship between the State farm and the State Government seem to be strained. The Chief Minister, the Home Minister, the Agriculture Minister and the Labour Minister have all informed us and all the political parties including many hon. Members personally saw me. That is why we have appointed a central team to go into the problems of the farm. We shall examine all the aspects mentioned by the hon. Member and see how things can be improved. About the transfer of the director, he is being transferred from that farm and therefore the main grievance of the hon. Member is no longer there.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: I want to get a specific assurance from the hon. Minister that they would look into the working of the State Farms Corporation apart from looking into the Aralam State Farm. Would he also agree to set up an advisory board for the State farms in the country so that bureaucratic running and the arrogant way in which the directors are behaving can be checked?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: It is the responsibility of the Government of India and of my Ministry to look into the problems of the State Farm Corporation or any corporation under the Ministry and we would not like to shirk our responsibility in these things. The hon.

Member's suggestion about advisory committees is a useful suggestion. There are already advisory committees but unfortunately they are not functioning effectively. We are thinking of how to strengthen them and making them more effective. The suggestion will be kept in mind.

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:** I fully share the views expressed by Shri Chandrupaa. The State farm expenditure for five years is Rs. 4.79 crores. But they have spent during the last three years only Rs. 70.69 lakhs. Letters have been written by the Kerala Agriculture Minister to the Chairman as well as the Minister here strongly demanding an enquiry and the removal of the Director after the first year. Another very important development is that the Director has filed a writ against the Kerala Government. I would like to know whether the farm development will be affected in the coming year because the budget has not been passed by the State Farm Corporation and whether the Government has given any permission to the Director to file a writ against the Kerala Government and if not, what action you propose to take against him?

**SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:** As far as the development of the farm is concerned, the Government of India with the cooperation of the State Farming Corporation will take all the necessary steps to see that the development is not hampered. The necessary financial sanction will be made available. Whatever may be the formal technicalities to be complied with, Government will see that the farm development is not affected. About the writ petition, we also learnt of this unfortunate development. Perhaps if the State Farming Corporation had informed us and requested us to use our good offices, we could have brought about a reconciliation. However, from the point of view of propriety, we consider it absolutely improper that the Director should have proceeded in the High Court against the State Government.

**SHRI VAYALAR RAVI:** I asked about the budget and also what action has been taken against the Director for filing a writ against the Kerala Government.

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**SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:** We will find out from the State Farming Corporation as to what led to these unfortunate events. But I have already said that from the point of view of propriety we consider it improper. We will take it up with the State Farming Corporation to see what can be done. Necessary steps will be taken to see that the budget is passed.

**SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR:** Is the Government aware of the failure of the farm authorities to prevent soil erosion by putting up contour bunds or cultivating paddy in a State where foodgrains are so scarce? Is it a fact that not even a single main road has been taken up in Aralam farm perhaps to prevent the Central Government officials from visiting the place and incidentally preventing the State Government from clearing the trees from the remaining part of the forests and handing it over? Are the Government aware of these facts and if so, what action has they taken?

**SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:** According to my information, the main road was to be constructed by the State Government and the inner approach roads were supposed to be constructed by the corporation. We are taking it up with the State Government.

**SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR:** Is it a fact that under the agreement, the road is not to be built by the State Government?

**SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE:** I will look into it.

**SHRI K P UNNIKRISHNAN:** Is the Minister aware of the two letters written by the concerned Director dated 29th June, and 1st July, 1973 to a leading daily of Kerala, the *Malavala Manorama* where the Director has threatened that "until such time your correspondent start writing unbiased views, we will not be in a position to give you any advertisement as a matter of principle" and whether the letters also contained derogatory remarks about M.P.s.? He has written, "Pressurising the administration by M.P.s. and

M.L.As. is not a sound practice in the modern world". We are separately examining whether it involves a privilege.

If so, may I know whether this has been permitted by the Government of India? Has it been brought to the attention of the Ministry and, if so, what action is proposed to be taken against this person?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** It was brought to our notice by many hon. Members from Kerala, including Shri Unnikrishnan, who showed me the extracts. We were really unhappy about this that an officer of the Corporation, a Government employee, should have entered into a public controversy. The priority and other aspects of this will be examined.

**SHRI C. H. MOHAMED KOYA:** May I know whether the Government of India will go into the reasons for the losses, as mentioned in the memorandum submitted by the M.Ps., and take the necessary steps to make this farm a profitable one?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** The area which has been selected for this, I must say, is one of the good areas. I have no doubt in my mind that this farm would come up very well, because we have taken adequate care. It is very important for the development of agriculture. The hon. Member is saying that it is running into losses. It has just started functioning for the last two years. A considerable amount of development expenditure has to be incurred before it can take shape. Since the condition for development of a farm for plantation etc. is very favourable, it is likely to earn sizable profits in times to come.

**SHRI C. M. STEPHEN:** In view of the proven misconduct on the part of the concerned Director, namely, refusal to cooperate with the Labour Department of the State, going to the Kerala High Court with a writ of mandamus against the State Government of Kerala disrupting public relations, making the farm a laughing stock by threatening all renowned newspaper of Kerala and conducting him-

self in such a manner as to have accomplished the impossible feat of keeping all political parties, ruling and opposition, all M.Ps., ruling and of the opposition, all the papers, Government-supporting and anti-Government, every side of the people combined against him, in view of this record of misconduct and mismanagement on the part of this officer, instead of a mere transfer of that officer being contemplated to take place in due course, what action do the Government propose to take against him? Is the Government prepared to see his entire record and take strong action against him so that it will be a stern warning for officers against misconduct of such nature when they are kept in places of public importance?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** We did not approve of his filing a *write of mandamus* against the State Government. I have already mentioned that the Government will examine its pros and cons. From the point of view of propriety also we feel that he should not have done it. We will examine all the aspects and see what should be done. We will have to take legal advice and also consult the State Government. After that, if we come to the conclusion that it is necessary, we will not hesitate to take strong action.

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA:** This is a typical example where big-headed bureaucrats mismanage a public undertaking. They are trying to create an impression that public undertakings are usually run in this manner. May I know how long this Corporation will continue to function like this and what is the extent of the loss incurred on account of this strike?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** As I said, only last year the Farm started operating, and it is too early for me to say.....

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA:** What about strike?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** The strike has been going on and, according to my information, some partial settlement seems to have been arrived at. But a

Central Team which has been constituted has been asked to look into the grievances of the employees. We will see that the interests of workers are protected and necessary steps are taken to see that the relationship between the management and the employees improves.

**SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA:** What about loss incurred by the Farm?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** It is not possible to work it out.

There has been a strike. It will be very difficult for me to give that information.

**SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA:** I want to ask the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the State Government has not given 6,500 acres of land at a time but given the same piece-meal and the largest chunk of about 3000 acres was given only in May, 1973 and whether it is also a fact that upto July, 1973, about 3000 acres are already under cultivation. He mentioned that because Mr. Krishna, the Member of the other House, is the Chairman of the Farm, the things are not doing well. I want to know whether Mr. Krishna is not properly attending to his duties as the Chairman of the Farm....

**SHRI C. M. STEPHEN:** Nobody said that.

**SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA:** Mr. Chandrappan said that. That is why I am obliged to mention Mr. Krishna's name.

Now, so many other Chairmen have also served this Farm. This is a national Agricultural Farm. It concerns the entire country.

I have also got the information that the State Government is also not cooperating with the Farm. I want to know whether it is a fact that this Corporation decided to have an Advisory Committee and requested the Government of Kerala to nominate their representative on the Committee and that the first meeting of the Advisory Committee has already taken place which was presided by the Chairman and attended by the State representatives. (*Interruption*).

**MR. SPEAKER:** It is very difficult to conduct the proceedings of the House if all of you keep standing and interrupting all the time.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** I do not think it will be correct to say that the Government is not cooperating. Because of the insistence and persuasion of the State Government, this Farm has been established. The Chief Minister and leaders of all political parties in Kerala are keen to see that the State Farm must succeed. Therefore, what we should do and I would request the hon. Member, Shri Suryanarayana, through you, Sir, not to say anything which would strain the relationship and create misunderstanding. Let us try to use this opportunity to see that proper atmosphere is created.

श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र कच्छबाय : माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया कि गत वर्ष काम प्रारम्भ हुआ है, इस का विकास बहुत होना है तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ इसके विकास में कितनी धनराशि खर्च होगी, जो डायरेक्टर के खिलाफ शिकायतें हैं वह कौन कौन सी हैं ? अभी आपने यह भी बताया कि उन्होंने भी शिकायत की है और केस दायर किया है तो उन्होंने कितने मुद्दों पर केस दायर किया है—इस बारे में क्या आप खुलासा करेंगे ।

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** As far as this Farm is concerned, it is likely to ultimately cultivate about 11,000 to 12,000 acres of land. The capital outlay involved is between Rs. 4 crores to Rs. 5 crores for the development of this Farm. As far as the specific writ filed by the officer is concerned, it is the *writ of mandamus* seeking protection, police protection, but it has been general for protection from local disturbance.

श्री वी० पी० मोर्य : आरणीय अध्यक्ष जी, मैं कृषि मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि कोई भी ऐसा स्टेट फार्म है जो लाभ में चल रहा है ?

दूसरे मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि इसमें कितनी जमीन आनी थी, योजना के अनुसार

किन समय कितनी बढ़ती होगी, इसके कोई आंकड़े हैं, लेकिन क्योंकि नुकसान का सबसे बड़ा कारण वह भी है?

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** I have got the statement of the individual farms also. In fact, while replying during this current session itself, on 13th August 1973, a statement has been placed on the Table of the House giving statements of profit and loss of individual farms. The hon. Member can see it.

As far as lands are concerned—this is the report which I have got from the Farm Corporation (*Interruptions*)—as on 9th June, 1973, 2,671 hectares of land are in the possession of the State farm.

**SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY:** The Minister was pleased to say that Advisory Committees for State Farms exist, though dormant. In this specific case, was there any Advisory Committee existent and was the State Government represented on the Committee and if not, why not? I also want to know whether, in the case of representation given on these Committees, in respect of all other farms also, Government will take care to see that the State Governments are represented to avoid such unseemly scenes.

**SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE:** Yes; we shall take care of this.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**Instructions to Car-Producing Units to Exercise price discipline to ensure price stability**

\*505. **SHRI VARKEY GEORGE:**  
**SHRI MUHAMMED**  
**SHERIFF:**

Will the Minister of **HEAVY INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently Government have issued any instruction to the Car-producing units in the country to exercise price discipline to ensure price stability; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof and the progress achieved in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T. A. PAI):** (a) and (b). No such specific instructions have been issued by Government. However, when I addressed the Annual General Meeting of the Association of Automobile Manufacturers on the 2nd August, 1973, I made a suggestion that the automobile industry should involve a price discipline which should be self-enforcing and self-adjusting and which would ensure price stability to a great extent. The Industry has not yet responded to this suggestion

#### Diversion of Ore for Indigenous Steel

\*508 **SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL** Will the Minister of **STEEL AND MINES** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to divert ore for the indigenous steel production instead of meeting export demands;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the advantages thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI T. A. PAI):** (a) The question presumably refers to iron ore and manganese ore. So far as manganese ore is concerned, Government's policy has been stated in reply to unstarred Question No. 1765 answered in the Lok Sabha on the 2nd August, 1973. So far as iron ore is concerned, exports are made from deposits not linked to any steel plants, which have their own linked sources of iron ore supply. The question of diverting iron ore from the export trade for indigenous steel production does not, therefore, arise at the moment.

(b) and (c). The reasons for restricting the export of manganese ore is the small size of manganese ore reserves as compared to the growth in indigenous steel production. It is in the national interest to utilize a raw material for indigenous