

appointed every five years take into account the various developments, so that at the end of five years the necessary adjustments are made, so that the funds of the Centre are shared with the State Government.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : Have there been any instances in the past where the debts of the States were written off by the Finance Commission or the Central Government itself, and if so, whether the Government would think of writing off the loans of those States which are in a bad financial position, where the *per capita* income is below the average ?

SHRI H. M. PATEL : The State has to present its position before the Finance Commission, and the Finance Commission takes full account of all that and makes appropriate recommendations. At the same time, when there are special difficulties, the Central Government itself takes them into consideration and makes additional allocations or even reduces the debt.

SHRI D. N. TIWARY : I wanted to know whether in the past in certain cases loans had been written off either by the Finance Commission or by the Central Government itself.

MR. SPEAKER : That is a matter available in the records.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : The Finance Commission would not have written off. They would have recommended the necessary adjustment. I have no information as to whether the Central Government itself has written off anything in the past.

Wage structure

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*724 **SHRI M. [RAMGOPAL REDDY :**

SHRI JANARDHANA POO-JARY

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of having regional wage structure instead of a National one; and

(b) if so, the broad conclusion reached by Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b). The Government of India have appointed,

in October, 1977, a Study Group on Wages, Incomes and Prices, which *inter alia* would consider the following issues:

- (i) What should be the minimum wage and what should be the norms with reference to which the minimum wage should be determined.
- (ii) Whether the minimum wage should be uniform or could be different as between different States/Regions.
- (iii) What should be the relevant criteria for determining the differentials between minimum wage and maximum wage and whether the ratio between minimum-maximum wages should be uniform, or could be different in the different States/Regions.

The Government would like to await the receipt of the Report of the Study Group before formulating its views on the matter. The Report of the Study Group is expected shortly.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Here the question is whether the Government has any idea about fixing norms for the different regions, but he says that Government will only wait for the report. By what time does Government expect to get the report.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : I have already said that the report is expected very shortly. If it gives the report according to the time originally given to it, it should be with us by the end of this month, if they ask for extra time, it may be a few weeks or more. But they have yet asked for any more time.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Whether the Minister is making any representation to this Committee or the Committee takes representations from the employers, employees, etc. Whether Government has got any views to convey to this Committee.

SHRI H. M. PATEL : This is a study group which has been appointed. This study group did invite the trade unions to come forward and put forward their propositions. I understand that the trade unions have not responded to this. To study these things, they were free to consult anybody else. But I do not know how they have proceeded.

Government has appointed this committee. This is a study group. When its report comes to us, then the question

whether the Government should consult trade unions or other interests, will arise.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: The scientific studies both official and non-official have conclusively proved that the share of the workers in terms of wages as well as other emoluments in the total cost of production has been declining whereas the industrial production has been increasing. You also know that the earning of the workers has been further corroded in relation to the cost of living. The hon. Minister has referred to the study group. You know that all the central trade unions have boycotted this study group by saying that it is composed of past and present bureaucrats and the approach of this study group is bureaucratic and solution would also be bureaucratic. In view of the fact that these trade unions have come to a definite conclusion that the setting up of this study group and also the composition of the study group is an attempt to initiate a wage freeze in the public sector undertakings, whether the Government is thinking of winding up of this Boothalingam Study Group.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The hon. Member will be glad to know that the Government has no such intention and is awaiting its report.

डा० रामजी सिंह : अक्ष महोदय, क्या वित्तमंत्री जी बतायेंगे कि उन्होंने जो यह स्टडी ग्रुप नियुक्त किया है, जिसकी टर्म्स ग्राफ रेफरेंस में यह बात दी गयी है—सेम पे फार दि सेम वर्क—यह स्टडी ग्रुप राज्य सरकार के और स्थानीय निकायों के कर्मचारियों के काम और वेतन के बारे में भी विचार करेगा ? क्या उनको यह मालूम है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार और राज्य सरकारों एवं स्थानीय निकायों में काम कर रहे कर्मचारियों को एक ही काम के लिए अलग अलग वेतन मिलता है जो कि इर्रेशनल है ? क्या वे इस ग्रुप की टर्म्स ग्राफ रेफरेंस में यह बात शामिल करने की भी संतुष्टि करेंगे ?

SHRI H. M. PATEL: Certainly, the study group will go into that aspect also.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Whether the Minister will kindly reply that all the trade unions have boycotted

this study group and they have not submitted any memorandum to this study group because the intention of the Government to set up the study group is to freeze the wage in all spheres, both the public and the private sectors.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: It is quite correct, as I said already, that the trade unions have not thought it fit to submit, any memorandum or meet the study group. It is unfortunate that they should have made up their mind that the intention of the study group is to bring about a wage freeze.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: What was the background for setting up of this committee? Will the committee look into the principle of need-based minimum wage? Do you agree to principle with the problem of need based minimum wage.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The very first term of reference is what should be the minimum wage. As to the circumstances which led to the appointment of the Study Group, the fact was that a number of distortions had entered into the entire wage system. For instance, there were some public sector enterprises where the wage level was extremely high, higher than the rate of salaries as well as dearness allowance of the Central Government employees.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is, whether the idea of evolving a need-based wage was behind the setting up of the Study Group.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The minimum wage is the very first term of reference.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: The Minister should know that the minimum wage and the need-based wage are two different things. The Minister should understand that there is a difference between the two.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The Study Group will consider all the aspects as to what should be the nature of the minimum wage and on what basis it should be done.

SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: My question was different.

MR. SPEAKER: I am putting your question. The question was, whether the idea in appointing the Study Group was to evolve a need-based wage.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: As I said, the very first term of reference is what should be the minimum wage and what should be the norms with reference to which the

minimum wage is to be determined. We expect the Study Group to tell us on what basis it will be done, whether it will be on the basis of need-based or any other basis.

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question. (Interruptions) Don't record.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI H. M. PATEL: The question put by the hon. Member, Shri Kanwar Lal Gupta, is covered in the terms of reference. Whether it will be need-based or not is also a point which the Study Group has to consider.

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question. (Interruptions) Don't record.

(Interruptions)**

खाद्य तेलों की कमी

*728. डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय : क्या वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी देने वाला एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या खाद्य तेलों की आगामी कुछ वर्षों में भी कमी बनी रहने की सम्भावना है ;

(ख) क्या आगामी पांच वर्षों में खाद्य तेलों का उत्पादन 20.12 लाख टन होने की संभावना है जब कि इनकी खपत 31.50 लाख टन होने का अनुमान है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो कमी को दूर करने तथा इस सम्बन्ध में आने वाली कठिनाइयों पर कामू पाने के लिये तैयार की गई योजना का पूर्ण व्यौरा क्या है ?

वाणिज्य तथा नागरिक पूर्ति और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कृष्ण कुमार गोयल) : (क) देश में खाद्य तिलहनों और तेलों के उत्पादन के उस समय तक मांग में कम बने रहने की सम्भावना है, जब तक

तिलहनों का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिए किये गये उपाय फल देना आरम्भ न कर दें।

(ख) आशा है कि किये गये उपायों के फलस्वरूप 34 लाख मीटरी टन की वर्तमान वार्षिक अनुमानित खपत की तुलना में खाद्य तेलों का वार्षिक उत्पादन 23 से 26 लाख मीटरी टन के वर्तमान उत्पादन स्तर से अधिक होगा।

(ग) वर्तमान कमी को पूरा करने के लिये खाद्य तेलों का आयात उदारतापूर्वक किया जा रहा है। इसके अलावा, किसानों को प्रोत्साहन देकर खाद्य तिलहनों और तेलों का उत्पादन बढ़ाने के लिये दीर्घकालीन और अल्पकालीन उपाय तैयार किये गये हैं, जिनमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ ये शामिल हैं—

- (1) सिंचित तथा असिंचित क्षेत्रों में सुधरी टैक्नालाजी का तेजी से विस्तार करके प्रति हैक्टेयर उत्पादकता बढ़ाना।
- (2) नयी सिंचाई परियोजनाओं के अन्तर्गत पड़ने वाले क्षेत्र में उपलब्ध संभाव्यता का उपयोग करके सिंचित फसलों के अन्तर्गत क्षेत्र बढ़ाना।
- (3) शुद्ध बीजों की आपूर्ति बढ़ाकर बीज उत्पादन कार्यक्रम को मजबूत करना।
- (4) पौध संरक्षण उपायों के अन्तर्गत क्षेत्र को बढ़ाना। इसके लिये विशेष रूप से, जहां सम्भव हो बहुत बड़े इलाके में हवाई छिड़काव करना।
- (5) समर्थन मूल्य निर्धारित करना तथा उन मूल्यों पर उपज खरीदने के लिये प्रबंध करना।
- (6) कृषि विभाग के गहन तिलहन विकास कार्यक्रमों और अन्य केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत प्रभाषीकृत बीजों