

(d) The recommendations of the Wage Board are not statutory. The officers of the Canteen Industrial Relations Machinery are making all endeavours to secure implementation through advice and persuasion. In Goa, a dispute on the subject has been taken up for conciliation.

INCENTIVES TO FARMERS

*315. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the F.A.O. Annual Report for 1967 is highly critical of the lack of economic incentives provided by Government to farmers for increasing production of foodgrains;

(b) whether the report has further stated that the so-called 'support' prices in India do not benefit the actual cultivator in the village, but are only meant for secondary markets; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to amend their existing agricultural prices policy in the light of the F.A.O.'s structures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) As can be seen from the Report itself, F.A.O. have acknowledged that recently Government of India have taken steps to provide incentive prices to the farmers.

(b) and (c). A view has been no doubt expressed in the Report that the small cultivators may not be able to derive advantage from the minimum support prices. For every crop season the Government of India, in consultation with the State Governments, fix procurement prices which are invariably higher than the minimum support prices. All purchases are made at the procurement prices and the Government of India, through the Food Corporation of India and the State Governments, have also been taking steps to see that sufficient number of purchasing points are set up to ensure that any

cultivator wishing to sell his produce, gets at least the procurement price announced by the Government. Since the policy of providing remunerative and incentive prices to the farmers and enabling him to get such a price is being followed by Government, the question of changing the existing policy in the light of the F.A.O.'s observations does not arise.

WAGE BOARD FOR HEAVY CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZER INDUSTRIES

*316. SHRI P. RAMAMURTI :
SHRI P. GOPALAN :
SHRI P. P. ESTHOSE :
SHRI SATYA NARAIN SINGH :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made by the Wage Board for heavy chemicals and fertilizer industries;

(b) when the report is likely to be submitted;

(c) whether the recommendations regarding interim relief have been implemented by the employers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to persuade the employers to implement the recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI HATHI) : (a) The board has made recommendations for an interim wage increase. It has also held public sittings at Bombay, Bangalore and Delhi, to hear the parties.

(b) The public hearings are expected to conclude next month and the Board will then hold meetings to finalise its recommendations. It is not possible to say precisely when the report will be submitted to Government.

(c) The recommendations are reported to have been implemented partially in Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Madras. Progress reports from other State Governments are awaited.

(d) and (e). The recommendations have no Statutory force. Their implementation is being secured by State Governments, mainly through persuasion and advice and the bargaining strength of the workers themselves.

MILK SHORTAGE IN DELHI

*317. SHRI M. L. SONDHI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the periodic short supply of milk and resultant hardships to the citizens of Delhi, Government have made efforts to augment supplies on an assured and constant basis;

(b) whether acting on the recommendations of the Kurien Committee Report, the Delhi Milk Scheme authorities have been able to dislodge traditional milk handlers from places where they are firmly entrenched;

(c) the experience of the D.M.S. to procure through cooperatives and the number and places of chilling centres which have been handed over to the cooperatives;

(d) whether the D.M.S. has fully explored the cow milk area of Bikaner and the quantity of milk, if any, being procured from Bikaner; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to extend the radius around Delhi from where the milk for D.M.S. should be collected as was indicated by the Kurien Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) D.M.S. has not been successful in procuring substantial quantities of milk through Cooperative. Kithore Milk Collection and Chilling Centre was handed over to U.P. Pradeshik Cooperative Dairy Federation in September, 1964. The Federation did not find it profitable to run this Centre and has

returned the same to D.M.S. in April this year.

(d) The present handling capacity at Bikaner is limited to the quantity of milk that can be frozen at the ice factory where milk is frozen before being transported to Delhi. During flush season up to 16,000 Kgs. of milk per day was procured.

(e) Area of procurement of milk by D.M.S. in U.P. is limited by a number of milk product factories in districts neighbouring D.M.S. milk shed. Attempts are being made to extend the procurement area in Haryana and Rajasthan.

TAKE-OVER OF RICE MILLS

*318. SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to take over rice mills by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (c). There is no proposal at present before Government for the taking over of all rice mills. Taking over of all the rice mills in the country would mean payment of compensation and this will involve a huge financial outlay. Further many of the existing mills are inefficient and have obsolete machinery and it may not be worthwhile taking over such mills. Again, the process of taking over unless it is properly planned, would result in dislocation of supplies. For all these reasons it has been felt that the modernisation of the rice milling industry and the setting up of more rice mills in the cooperative and in the public sector should be first taken up before the question of take-over of rice mills is considered.