

(b) if so, the details regarding the ways and means to help the farmers with small and uneconomic holdings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The Government of India has not convened any such conference. Presumably the question refers to the 'one week Workshop' convened by the Canara Bank at Bangalore on 17.9.1970;

(b) My Ministry has not received any proceedings of this Conference. However it is gathered that the Minister for Agriculture, Mysore had suggested in the Workshop that the small farmers holding less than 5 acres also should benefit by the credit schemes of banks.

SHRI N. SHIVAPPA : In view of the reply given by the hon. Minister, may I know whether it is within the knowledge of the hon. Minister that the Government of Mysore are utilising the agency of these banks with political motives and for self-help, and that credit from these nationalised banks is not going to the small farmers, but only to the rich farmers, and if so, whether Government are going to appoint a committee to explore how this misuse is going on in the State of Mysore ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : We would not like the nationalised banks to be used for political purposes. To my mind, the nationalised banks are making every effort to see that the credit reaches the small farmer. In regard to the specific question which the hon. Member has put, I think it would be desirable if the hon. Member puts a question to the Finance Ministry.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Strike in Calcutta Port

SNQ 3. SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the main demand of the striking employees of the Calcutta Port;

(b) whether the strike has paralysed the work of the Port; and

(c) the steps taken or contemplated by Government to resolve the tangle ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BISHWANATH ROY) : (a) to (c). Demanding that all such workmen belonging to Stevedores and other employers should be registered, without any restriction on their numbers, as general purpose mazdoors and gearmen, under the Calcutta Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Scheme, 1970, the workmen have gone on strike from November 6, 1970. The work of the Port had been considerably affected by the strike but now almost normalcy has been achieved.

Negotiations and discussions with the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central) and in the Dock Labour Board meeting could not resolve the strike. The Chairman, Dock Labour Board, Calcutta has, with the prior approval of the Central Government, declared an emergency under Clause 55 of the Scheme with effect from November, 19.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : Strike by port workers especially in Calcutta has become the order of the day. In the middle of this year, there was a strike by 20,000 bargeman, followed by strike of dock workers. Since the 6th of this month, we are having a strike of the general purposes mazdoors. The hon. Minister has said in his reply that the negotiations and discussions with the Regional Labour Commissioner and the Dock Labour Board have not resolved the strike. I would like to know why such an important matter has been left to the Regional Labour Commissioner and why the hon. Minister could not attach due importance to this and try to resolve himself the strike? Is it a fact that the traffic which used to be handled at Calcutta, which is a major port in the country, has almost been reduced to half and so many ships are being diverted to other ports and many ships are waiting there for loading and unloading purposes? I would like to know whether there are still some ships waiting for loading and unloading and whether some

ships have to be diverted to other ports. May I know whether Government would take up the matter at the Ministerial level rather than leave it to be tackled at the level of the Regional Labour Commissioner ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA) : As soon as we heard that there was a strike and the whole port was paralysed, a high-level meeting was held here, which was attended by the Transport Minister, the Chief Secretary of West Bengal, the Chairman, Port Commissioners and the Deputy Chairman, Dock Labour Board and other officials concerned. At that meeting, we found that the demand of these General Purpose Mazdoors was not justifiable, and the only way to tackle the situation was to declare emergency.

Therefore the Chairman of the Port Commissioners, with the prior approval of Government, declared an emergency on the 19th. Since then, the work is normal; no ship is being diverted. Of course, during those days between the 6th, and the 19th some ships were diverted.

As for the other question, the Calcutta port has become really a problem port and the traffic handled has come down considerably, this question is being examined separately.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : Government at one stage were trying to evolve a suitable machinery for settlement of disputes pertaining to port labour. For that purpose a tripartite conference also took place. Has that suitable machinery been created at the Central or State level ? Also, when are they going to terminate emergency ? Are the go-slow tactics by shore labour still continuing, and if so, what is the Government's attitude to it ?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : First of all, there is no go-slow now; the work is normal.

As for the machinery to be set up to settle disputes at various levels, a conference was convened by the Transport Minister. All the three federations of the workers were invited to it; the Chairmen of Port Trusts were also invited. It was decided

that issues should be settled at the local level with the Chairman. If they are not settled, one month's notice should be given to the Central Government and the Transport and Labour Ministries would constitute a machinery which would deal with the situation.

SHRI S. KUNDU : We are really happy that the strike is almost over and normalcy restored. But we are slightly confused and want to know who were the labourers who actually started the strike. We know of the All-India Port and Dock Workers' Federation. Did they start the strike or did some other organisation do it, and is that organisation recognised by the port authorities ?

Secondly, did the Union which started the strike insist on acceptance of a manning scale by referring it to a one man committee ? If so, what is Government's attitude ? Will Government stand on prestige and allow the trouble to grow or will it see that all labour troubles are settled as early as possible ?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : It was not started by any recognised or registered federation of port and dock workers; it was started by an unregistered union and the workers actually are not the employees either of the Dock Labour Board or of the port; they are the employees of the stevedores and other employers. They want the same privileges as accorded to Dock Labour Board workers. Government feel it is not possible to give them those facilities. However, Government are prepared to examine the whole question.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : The strike is over, but after a declaration of emergency which we do not like. Since many troubles are taking place in this particular port and they are attributed to inter-union rivalries, does the Minister propose to have a discussion with the central trade union organisations like AITUC, INTUC, HMS, UTUC to arrive at a definite settlement and bring about an industrial truce for running our ports smoothly.

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : That has been the tradition in this Department. We have always been relying on the tripartite machinery. We invited every time the trade

union organisations, especially the INTUC, the AIUC, HMS and UTUC, but unfortunately, of late, some of the central organisations have expressed that they do not have any faith in the tripartite machinery, and they are also boycotting some of the meetings.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : What are you going to do ?

श्री हुकमचन्द कछवाय : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूँ कि हड़तालें जो होती हैं उनके पीछे मुख्य कारण होता है यूनियनों की मान्यता। आपने जो मान्यता दी हुई है वह ऐसी यूनियन को दी हुई है जिसकी सदस्य संख्या कम है और जिनकी सदस्य संख्या ज्यादा है उनको मान्यता नहीं दी गई है। इस हड़ताल से साफ मालूम पड़ता है कि यूनियन के साथ अधिक लोग हैं। मैं मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि उनकी जो मुख्य मांग है कि रजिस्ट्रेशन किया जाये जिस को कि करना चाहिये उनकी इस मांग को पूरा करने में आपके सामने क्या दिक्कत आ रही है ? आप उनका रजिस्ट्रेशन क्यों नहीं करना चाहते हैं ?

दूसरी बात यह है कि जो वेज बोर्ड की रिपोर्ट है वहां लागू नहीं है तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसको लागू करने में आपके सामने कौनसी परेशानी आ रही है ? आखिर वे कौन सी तमाम बातें हैं जिनको लेकर हड़तालें करनी पड़ती हैं ?

श्री भागवत झा आजाब : यह बात सही नहीं है कि इस बोर्ड में ऐसी यूनियन को मान्यता दी गई है जिनकी सदस्य संख्या कम है। आल इंडिया डाक वर्क्स को जो मान्यता दी गई है वह एच० एम० एस० की यूनियन है और उसकी सब से बड़ी सदस्य संख्या है। जो हड़ताल की गई है वह एक अनरजिस्टर्ड यूनियन ने श्री बिन्दु घोष के नेतृत्व में की है और वह इसलिए की है कि चार हजार आदमी जो और एम्प्लायर के अन्तर्गत काम कर रहे हैं उनको

रजिस्टर कर दिया गया है। माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा कि इस बोर्ड को इम्प्रूव करने के लिए यह किया गया है कि हमने एक एक्सपर्ट कमेटी बिठाई और सन 56 की स्कीम अब 70 की स्कीम में रखी है। वालन्ट्री रिटायरमेन्ट की स्कीम रखी है जिसके अन्तर्गत तीन हजार वर्कर्स को दो करोड़ 75 लाख रुपया दिया जा चुका है। उसके अन्तर्गत हम चाहते हैं कि दोनों ही लेबर को हम रजिस्टर्ड करें। पहली बार यह कर रहे हैं जिसके लिए उन्होंने स्ट्राइक किया है। हम वही कदम उठा रहे हैं जो कि माननीय सदस्य चाहते हैं लेकिन अनरजिस्टर्ड यूनियन के इतने लोगों को हम ले लें तो सिक बोर्ड और भी सिकर हो जायेगा—यह हम करने वाले नहीं हैं।

श्री मधु लिमये : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मन्त्री जी ने स्वयं स्वीकारा कि डाक लेबर बोर्ड का काम सब जगह संतोष जनक नहीं है और इसी के चलते केवल कलकत्ता में ही नहीं कई भारत के बन्दरगाहों में मजदूरों में असंतोष उत्पन्न हो रहा है। खुद राज्य मन्त्री ने, मुझे याद है, राज्य सभा को आश्वासन दिया था कि विशाखापटनम के डिप्टी चेयरमैन जिनकी कि मियाद खत्म हो गई है वहां पर काम करने की, उसको ट्रांसफर किया जायेगा लेकिन मुझे पता चला है कि अभी संजीवैया साहब ने हुक्म दिया है कि उनकी मियाद को बढ़ाया जाये...

श्री डी. संजीवैया : नहीं नहीं।

श्री मधु लिमये : यह भेरे पास जानकारी आई है। तो आप इस तरह के काम करते हैं जिनके फलस्वरूप मजदूरों को हड़ताल करनी पड़ती है। तो क्या डाक लेबर बोर्ड्स के बारे में ही नहीं, सभी जगह जो डाक लेबर बोर्ड्स काम कर रहे हैं उनके बारे में गम्भीरता पूर्वक विचार करेंगे ?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : It is not correct to say that every where there is unrest. Now and then some problems arise, some

difficulties arise, and therefore trouble arises. We tackle the problems and solve them.

With regard to this particular case relating to Vishakapatnam, it is not as though the Deputy Chairman of the Dock Labour Board was transferred on account of any complaints. He had finished his term there. Therefore, he had to go to some other place. He was transferred much earlier than the time when the question was raised in the Rajya Sabha. He was transferred to Madras, and the arrangement was that the present officer, who is the Deputy Chairman of the Madras Dock Labour Board, will go as Regional Labour Commissioner, Madras. The present incumbent of the post of Regional Labour Commissioner, Madras, retires on 1st January. Therefore, orders have been passed, but they will take effect from 1st January, 1970.

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM :

With reference to Vishakhapatnam, the Minister was pleased to say that the officer was transferred not on account of complaints. Is it or is it not a fact that all the labour unions lodged complaints against him ?

SHRI D. SANJIVAYYA : Not all the labour unions. In fact, I had occasion to go to Vishakhapatnam very recently. Some union have complained. On the other hand there are some unions who want him very badly there.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Meeting Between Chief Minister, Punjab and Union Food and Agriculture Minister Regarding Early Fixation of Procurement Price of Wheat

* 362. **SHRI KIKAR SINGH :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently the Chief Minister of Punjab met the Union Food and Agriculture Minister in New Delhi and demanded that Procurement Price of Wheat should be announced early at a level higher than the last year so that the farmer should know it at the time of sowing;

(b) if so, the details of the talks and the action taken in the matter;

(c) the procurement price of the last year; and

(d) what would be the procurement price in the current year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The Chief Minister of Punjab met the Union Food and Agriculture Minister during the first week of November 1970. The Procurement price of Wheat was not discussed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Procurement Price of all varieties of Wheat excepting indigenous red variety in Punjab, has been fixed at Rs. 76/- per quintal during 1969-70 marketing season.

(d) The procurement price of wheat is fixed at Rs. 76/- per quintal for 1970-71 season. The procurement price for 1971-72 season will be fixed at the beginning of the season.

Coordinated Poultry Breeding Programme

* 363. **SHRI NARAYANAN :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central and selected State poultry farms will soon initiate Coordinated poultry breeding programme to ensure production of genetically superior stock through adoption of scientific breeding technique;

(b) if so, the details of this programme; and

(c) whether Government have also advised the State Government to set up suitable marketing organisation in the cooperative or private sector for organising poultry marketing an economic line ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). A Statement is