

डा० प्रताप चन्द्र चन्द्र : सवाल यह नहीं है। सवाल यह है कि हम यह जानते हैं कि कांकरेंट लिस्ट में शिक्षा को रख देने से कोई ताकत वह हमको नहीं देना है जब तक कि हम कोई कानून नहीं बनाते हैं। हमने कोई कानून नहीं बनाया है, इसलिए ऐक्जीक्यूटिव पावर अभी सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के हाथ में नहीं है।

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether he would consider giving exemption to the ladies from the age limit in admission or in service because it is a known fact that to ask a question about the age from a lady is rather impertinent?

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: I will keep that suggestion in view, Sir.

SHRI A. R. ANTULAY: Sir, I would like to put a question to the hon. Minister. I am only concerned with that part of the answer when he said that we know that this has been introduced in the Concurrent List as a result of the 42nd Amendment and that he does not accept that as a Constitutional provision.

12 Noon

I am only asking the question whether he does or does not accept that as a part of the Constitution and if he does whether he thinks he is bound by it or not? That is my only question.

DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER: Sir, the position is very clear. So long as it is a part of the Constitution, we are bound by it. But whether we act upon it or not, that is entirely within our discretion and we are not exercising our discretion so far as matters connected with the Forty-Second Amendment are concerned.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next question, please.

SHRI A. R. ANTULAY: Sir, this is a point . . .

(Interruption)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing that matter at present. You can raise a separate discussion. Next question, Mr. Lakshmanan.

Inter-State Movement of Paddy

*65. SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN:†
SHRI BAPURAOJI MARO-
TRAOJI DESHMUKH:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR
RAHA:
SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHAN-
KAR ADIVAREKAR:
SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently withdrawn all the zonal restrictions on the movement of paddy;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the names of the States which have represented to the Central Government against the decision;

(d) what are the main points contained in their representations;

(e) what steps Government propose to take to assist those States in solving their difficulties in this regard;

(f) whether the State Governments were consulted before taking a decision in the matter; and

(g) whether Government propose to reconsider their decision in the matter?

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri G. Lakshmanan.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Under the pricing and procurement policy for Kharif cereals for the 1977-78 marketing season announced by the Government of India, all zonal restrictions on the movement of rice and paddy have been removed and such movements would now be free throughout the country. This policy was adopted, taking into consideration:

(i) *The easy food situation.*—With expectation of bumper harvest from Kharif crops and with 19 million tonnes of foodgrain stocks, out of which 4.8 million tonnes was rice, the continuance of controls and restrictions was considered unnecessary;

(ii) *The well-being of the people—producers as well as consumers.*—It was expected that the producers in surplus states would be getting better prices for their produce and the consumers in the deficit States would be getting their supplies at lower prices. Since the adoption of the new policy, these expectations have been fulfilled;

(iii) The hope, in view of good harvest, that procurement of rice, even after the removal of restrictions on its movement would not be much less. Efforts to maximise procurement are continuing. In fact, procurement of rice this year so far has been highest, 6.5 lakh tonnes against 4.9 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year; and

(iv) The idea that Indian people being one should have access to one common market to the extent it is possible.

(c) to (e) Government of Assam, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal

represented that the procurement of paddy/rice in the respective States the respective States would be adversely affected and it would be difficult to maintain effectively the public distribution system. They also expressed their concern that the open market prices of rice in their States would rise on account of large movement of paddy and rice outside their states to other areas. It was also feared that open market availability would go down. The basic aspects of the new policy were explained to these State Governments and they were assured that the Government of India would come to their assistance to the extent necessary for effective maintenance of the public distribution system. The West Bengal Government was desirous of continuance of statutory rationing in the Greater Calcutta and Durgapur—Asansol Industrial Complex and wanted to cordon off these areas from the rest of the state and this has been agreed to by the Central Government. All the State Governments were advised that it should be possible for them to procure sufficient quantities of rice stocks even under the new policy by resorting to judicious combination of levy on traders as well as on millers. Proposals for imposition of levy were received from Tamil Nadu, Assam and West Bengal and these have been cleared. Government of Orissa have decided to procure rice through wholesale licencees including millers and cooperatives.

(f) Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation discussed the price and procurement policy for Kharif cereals 1977-78 season with Chief Ministers/Food Ministers/Agriculture Ministers of the various States and Union Territories in September, 1977 when their view were expressed. Some State Governments had urged on the removal of all restrictions on movement of paddy and rice, while some others wanted the Zonal system to be con-

tinued as existed or with certain modifications. The final policy has been adopted in the overall national interest.

(g) The Government is closely watching the situation and will not hesitate to take corrective measures that may be considered necessary.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Implementation of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act

*66. SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-PATRO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some-time back the Animal Welfare Board, Madras, suggested amendments to some of the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, with a view to securing proper and effective implementation of the law;

(b) if so, what were the amendments proposed; and

(c) by when the Bill embodying the amendments is likely to be brought before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing existing provision and amendments proposed by Animal Welfare Board is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix CIII Annexure No. 6].

(c) The Bill embodying the amendments will be placed before the Parliament as soon as the amendments are finalised in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Law.

रायपुर, मध्य प्रदेश में भारतीय खाद्य निगम के गोदामों में गेहूं को नुकसान

* 67. श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही :

श्री सैयद निजामुद्दीन :

श्री कमल नाथ झा :

श्री नत्थो सिंह :

क्या कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल ही में मध्य प्रदेश स्थित रायपुर में भारतीय खाद्य निगम के गोदामों में 13 लाख रुपए के मूल्य के गेहूं का स्टॉक खराब हो गया जो मानव उपभोग के लायक नहीं रह गया था; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस नुकसान के लिए जिम्मेदार पाये गये भारतीय खाद्य निगम के कर्मचारियों के विरुद्ध सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है ?

† [Wheat damaged in godowns of the FCI in Raipur, Madhya Pradesh]

*67. SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI:

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN:

SHRI KAMAL NATH JHA:

SHRI NATHI SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat stocks worth Rs. 13 lakhs got damaged recently in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India in Raipur in Madhya Pradesh making the same unfit for human consumption; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken against the employees of the Food Corporation of India found responsible for the loss?

† [] English translation.