

श्री महादेव प्रसाद वर्मा : श्रीमन्, पिछले कई वर्षों से लगातार खेती की पैदावार गिरती जा रही है। क्या मैं सरकार से पूछ सकता हूँ कि हमके पीछे किसानों के विरुद्ध कोई विशेष नीति काम कर रही है कि पैदावार का दाम कम किया जाये, पानी का दाम बढ़ाया जाये और खाद का दाम बढ़ाया जाये ? क्या सरकार इस नीति के अन्तर्गत पैदावार का दाम कम कर रही है जिससे किसानों के जीवन पर सकट आ रहा है ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: It would not be a correct understanding, in fact, to say that production is progressively going down. If I can make a submission, production is progressively coming up and I can justify it by figures. Take the case of wheat. Our production in the country was 10 to 11 million tons. Now it has touched 24 to 25 million tons. Even in rice production last year despite the whims of nature, etc. We had a record rice crop and it was mainly because of new seeds, new strategy of agricultural production. The main thing is because of our population increase it is not adequate to meet our demand and there has been some setback during the last two years in agricultural production. But to say that somebody is working against the interests of farmers, I do not think it would be a correct appreciation. On prices we can have two views as to what should be reasonable prices. Ultimately we have to balance the interests of the consumers who are very poor in this country and at the same time we have to look to the interests of the producers. I would like to tell the hon. Member that we do like to encourage agriculturists in this country to produce more and more and that is why our effort is to help the agriculturist so that he is in a position to successfully implement the programme.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

Re Starred Question No. 64

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Mr. Deputy Chairman, before you proceed to the next item I would like to submit that the next

question is an important question, but due to lack of time it could not come up today and that is on procurement of wheat. During the last Session you had seen how the House wanted to discuss the new procurement policy. Mr. Om Mehta said "We shall discuss it in the next Session". We have given notice of it. This question could not come up. I want to request you kindly to give some time during this Session so that we can discuss how the new procurement policy has been working.

श्री श्रीम प्रकाश त्यागी : श्रीमन् यह महत्वपूर्ण विषय है, इस पर डिस्कशन होना चाहिए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You send notice of discussion.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: We have sent.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you have, then we shall see. Next item, Papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Report of the Committee on operational cost of Food Corporation of India

*64. SHRIMATI RATHANABAI

SREENIVAISA RAO :

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH :

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA :

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON :

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 303 given in the Rajya Sabha on 8th May, 1974 and state the action taken by Government on the recommendations of the Committee on the operational costs and administrative overheads of the Food Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE): The mechanics of implementing the recommendations made by the Committee are being worked out by the Food Corporation of India.