

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI: My question is whether the Minister is applying the same rule to the other Adivasi and Tribal areas or not.

श्री ना० कु० शेखरबलकर : वह ट्राइबल एरिया इस में लयमें तो मध्य प्रदेश में बहुत बड़ा ट्राइबल एरिया है। आप सारा स्टेटमेंट ही हाउस के सामने रख दें।

श्री सभापति : आप डंगरपुर के मुनासिक हो बतलाइये।

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Drought relief is a State subject. Our policy is well known. There is no formal ceiling if the State Governments want to provide relief in any area including Dongarpur if the works are productive. Therefore very massive assistance is being rendered by the Central Government to the State Governments. This applies to all Districts in all parts of country including Dongarpur.

श्री ओउम प्रकाश त्यागी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार को यह जानकारी है कि डंगरपुर के इस आदिवासी क्षेत्र में जहाँ सरकार का कार्य हो रहा है वहाँ विदेशी ईसाई मिशनरी भी बहुत बड़ी तादाद में सहायता कार्य कर रहे हैं और इस की आड़ में वहाँ के आदिवासियों का धर्म परिवर्तन कर रहे हैं? यह जानकारी आप को है या नहीं है? यदि जानकारी है तो इस प्रकार के बलात् धर्म परिवर्तन को रोकने के लिए सरकार की ओर से कोई प्रयत्न किया गया है या नहीं?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: We have not received any such report but since the hon. Member has made a statement we will refer this to the State Government. We do not allow any foreign agencies to intervene in our relief operations; in fact, this is the first time in this country we are carrying on massive relief operations relying on our own efforts. If there is any mischief committed by anybody we shall look into it.

PROCUREMENT OF WHEAT

181. SHR[KOTA PUNNAIAH :

SHRI BRAHMANANDA

PANDA: SHRI J. S. TILAK: SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: SHRI KRISHAN KANT: SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: SHRI Z. A. AHMAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total procurement of wheat during the years 1970-71, 1971-72 and 1972-73;

(b) the targets fixed year-wise; and

(c) the procurement since 1st April, 1973 to date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(In '000 tonnes)

Marketing Year (April-March)	Procurement Targets	Total pro- curement of wheat
1970-71	3700	3192
1971-72	4095	5101
1972-73	*	5006
1973-74	*	1100
		(Up to 8-5-1973)

*No target fixed.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: May I know what was the quantity procured till today during the corresponding period last year, what was the target fixed for each State this year and now much has been procured in each State during this period?

1 The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Kota Punnaiah.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I can say that the total target for the country is 8.1 million tonnes. The figures for important States are 33 lakhs for Punjab, 18 lakhs for Uttar Pradesh, 13 lakhs for Haryana, 6 lakhs for Bihar, 4 lakhs for Madhya Pradesh, 3 lakhs for Rajasthan and about 1 lakh for West Bengal; others are small figures. As far as procurement is concerned, as far as important States are concerned, last year upto 3.00 P.M. on 8th May we were able to procure 21 lakhs 86,000 tonnes and this year it is 3 lakhs 48,000 tonnes. So it is almost double that of last year. In Uttar Pradesh last year it was 1,25,000 tonnes and this year it is 1,73,000 tonnes. Madhya Pradesh last year 21,000 tonnes, this year 1,41,000 tonnes. Haryana last year 2,47,000 tonnes, this year 1,45,000 tonnes. Bihar last year it was nil this year it is 2,100 tonnes.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware that wheat prices have gone up steeply in the south and the retail price of wheat is about Rs. 3 per kg. and may I know whether at least some of the wheat procured in the north would be rushed to the south for sale at controlled prices?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: A very massive movement has been organised for taking wheat from the procurement areas to deficit States and I think whatever difficulties were there in the months of March and April now there will be considerable relief and a considerable improvement in the situation is expected now.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: First of all I think the statement which he has given now should be laid on the Table of the House so that figures in respect of all the States are available. That he may kindly do.

May I know whether he is aware that there are certain forces in this country? They have formed a Krishak Samaj and others including the peasants are going round the villages propagating against procurement. May I know what action the

Government has taken, may be under D1R, to arrest them and detain them, so that the backbone of those organisations which are working against the present very important challenge to socio-economic restructuring is broken? May I know whether any action has been taken and, if not, why not? The question which Mr. Kota Punnaiah asked is whether the Minister is aware that the price rise has been there in all the States. Is it a fact that in many of the States even the political machinery and the administrative machinery is not functioning in tune to achieve the objective and what action has been taken to see that the Ministries in different parts of the country, where Congress Ministries are there, and the administration function so as to achieve the targets?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I have no objection to laying the statement on the Table of the House, so that the hon. House and the hon. Member can have detailed information. As far as procurement is concerned, naturally the facts will be available in the statement. There are forces in the country which are deliberately trying to propagate against the scheme of takeover and vested interests and their supporters are doing that. I only wish that nobody, no section from this House, supports such an activity in the country. We are very much aware of that. In fact, we have requested the State Governments to furnish us with weekly information as to how much action has been taken, how many people have been arrested and what measures have been taken. The State Governments would start reporting to us from this week. I have information that a number of States have taken stern action against people who are trying to interfere with our procurement operations.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: How many have been arrested?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: The total figure will be available by the weekend. Then, Sir, I can only say that for toning up the administration in all the States

my senior colleague, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, has been in touch with the Chief-Ministers and Food Ministers. Practically every day he is having continuous consultations and even there is an inter-Ministerial Committee which looks into it. Special officers have been posted for certain areas to co-ordinate between the Centre and the States. In Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, U. P. and Rajasthan, in all these States special officers have been posted and we are trying to do our level best to see that red tapism is reduced. . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: There is no dearth of red-tape in the Government.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: We are trying our level best to see that the administration comes up to expectations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni. All right, Mr. Niren Ghosh.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, my name is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I called you, but you again sat down and you were not standing up.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Do you think that Mr. Kulkarni who asks uncalled for questions will not ask when called?

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : The Minister has stated that the State Governments have been asked to take action against those elements in the society who are opposing the procurement policy of the Government. May I know particularly whether the State Governments are properly equipped to meet this challenge? I want to know specifically from the Minister whether he is aware that the Jan Sangh Party is putting pressure in Maharashtra to increase the ration to 12 kg. while in Punjab and Haryana, it is advising and discouraging the agriculturists from giving the procurement wheat. The SSP is doing the same in Bihar, to know what is the political set-up of this country whereby special measures

which are in the larger interests of the country are being opposed by certain political parties to defeat an ideology. What are the steps which the Government propose to take. Along with this, may I know from the Minister the long-term policy? If the wholesale takeover is to be a success, you will have to take proper cognizance of your present policy regarding agricultural produce. Otherwise, it will never be a success, because in the past we have seen that the prices have no relation to the prices of inputs for wheat.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: We are aware that certain political parties. . . .

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I said the Jan Sangh,

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: ... including the Jan Sangh are exploiting the situation and it is very unfair on their part. In fact, in deficit areas they persuade people to ask for more food and in surplus areas they tell the people not to contribute to the public sector agencies. I think this activity deserves to be condemned if anybody indulges in this sort of thing. I would repeat that this is an essential commodity for the life of the community and no political party, whatever may be our differences, should do this.

In a democratic setup, I can say that there can be differences. But no differences should be allowed come in the way and interfere with the supply of essential commodities like food. Therefore, I would appeal to all the political parties to desist from any propaganda which would interfere with the procurement operations.

As far as the price aspect is concerned, I would only submit to the hon. Member and to the honourable House that this is not the right time to reopen the question of price. We are very sympathetic—my Ministry, my senior colleague and myself—and there are a number of measures under the consideration of the Government of India as to what needs to be considered to secure

the fixation of price, how the farmers' interests are to be safeguarded, and we propose to take some steps in times to come.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I would like to know whether, in order to really make the wheat procurement a success, the Government will now try to commandeer the entire marketable surplus, not the marketed surplus because only the poor peasants will sell their produce at distress price at this time and it will come to the market. Really, it is the marketed surplus that is sold in the market and not the marketable surplus of the big landlords and big business, and you are not going to touch them. And how can Mr. Shinde appeal for cooperation when your policy itself would defeat your purpose? You say one thing and do another thing. We have every doubt. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you going to put a question or not? You are expressing doubt.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: I would like to know whether they would change this policy in that light. Since the question of prices has come, is it a fact that the Agricultural Prices Commission wanted a reduction of the price of wheat, the selling price of wheat? You have raised it. So, whom does it benefit? The middle peasant, the lower peasant or the big peasant? Only the big landlords and the very rich will benefit. So, I want to know whether you would review this question also.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Of course, at the moment the scheme is supposed to operate on the basis of the marketable surplus. I would submit that we have not closed our eyes and ears to the situation. As the situation goes on unfolding itself, even if the scheme is to be modified, in order to see that the Government have a commanding position over the marketable surplus, we will take the necessary steps. Naturally, the scheme itself based on the marketable surplus, it is quite sound and reasonable, and in operation, if we find that there are any difficulties, the Government

will not hesitate to modify the scheme, if need be.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Most unsound.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I think you may have this view because you are opposed to the scheme itself.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: I am not opposed.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I do not know where the hon. Member got the information from, that we have increased the selling price. I am sorry, many times he makes statements under an emotion, because the issue price of wheat is uniform at Rs. 78; no issue price was increased, and at the moment. . .

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: It was raised by Rs. 2.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: The issue price of Rs. 78 is prevailing for the last few years.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: It was Rs. 72.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: That is also incorrect. I wish the hon. Member is more precise and correct. So much of material has been furnished to this honourable House from time to time; we have got information with us, and I think he is totally incorrect on this score.

श्री जगदम्बो प्रसाद यादव : श्रीमन्, पोलिटिकल मोटिवेटेड की बात होती है और किसानों की भलाई की बात अभी तक नहीं सोची गई। जहाँ किसानों की चीजों के मूल्य के निर्धारण करने की बात होती है, सरकार से हमेशा इस बात की मांग की गई है कि अग्रिकल्चर यूनियन-वसिटी के लोग और किसानों के प्रतिनिधि इस मूल्य निर्धारण की भूमिका अदा करें, लेकिन सरकार ने इस बात की मान्यता नहीं दी है जिसके कारण किसानों को रयूमिनिरेटिव प्राइस नहीं मिल पाती है। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता

हैं कि जो उन्होंने प्राइस फिक्स्ड की है, क्या वह किसानों के लिए रयूमिनिरेटिव प्राइस है ? यही कारण है कि आज किसान प्रोक्योरमेंट के कार्य में इच्छापूर्वक साथ नहीं दे रहा है और उसके लिए रयूमिनिरेटिव प्राइस न होने के कारण वह उसका विरोध कर रहा है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, this is the line which the hon'ble Member and his party are having. In fact we should not compare the present prices to the black market prices. Due to drought and shortfall in production, naturally the prices have shot up of a number of commodities including the coarse grains. In order to exploit the sentiments of the producers such a line of propaganda is being put up. This issue of prices was gone into by...

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : आप ट्रैक्टर का दाम क्या लेते हैं, खाद का दाम क्या लेते हैं, जो बीज आप देते हैं उनका दाम क्या लेते हैं, यही बता दीजिए।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I did not interfere while you were speaking. Let me speak now. This matter was gone into by the Agricultural Prices Commission which is an expert body. This recommendation was considered by the Chief Ministers' Conference. It was even suggested that the prices should be enhanced before the sowing season and, therefore, the farmers knew what price would be available to them as the procurement price. Because the country is in a difficult situation let us not exploit the situation like this. Ultimately we have a responsibility to have a balance between the interest of the producers and the consumers in this country, then the purchasing power of the middle class, the fixed income group and the poorer sections of the society is very limited. We have to take a balanced view. As I said, we are very sympathetic to the producers' cause. The Government will take all necessary steps to see how the producers' interest is protected. But nothing should be done particularly today to take up this line of propaganda which will interfere with procurement operations.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Is it not a fact that in a number of States the procurement of wheat is far below the expectation and the target fixed? What are the States where the target has fallen short and whether any step has been taken in this connection to improve the situation. I should also like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether there is still hesitation on the part of the Government not to extend the procurement on the basis of marketed surplus on those substantial land owners who have got the surplus instead of just relying on the marketable surplus which is not adequate. I should like to know whether the Government has fixed any target for the procurement of wheat. The production of wheat this year is supposed to be of the order of 27 million tonnes.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, as far as the procurement is concerned, Punjab is coming up very well . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why do you answer this way?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: After all, we should have a balanced picture in the country . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: On a point of order.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Punjab, in fact, deserves to be congratulated by all of us. I am coming to your point.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I know Punjab is your talking point. I asked in how many States . . .

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Have a little patience. Bihar and Rajasthan, for instance . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I asked in how many States . . .

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I said Punjab deserves congratulations from all of us for coming up very well in procure-

ment operations. Therefore, procurement is almost total as compared to last year. Let us try to give encouragement to them.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: He can say Punjab has done very well. These are relevant facts. But I want to know which are the States where procurement is falling.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: He has heard your question. As for the States where procurement is not satisfactory, they are Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. I have given the figures of Madhya Pradesh which compare much favourably . . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Again, on a point of order. The Government fixed a target. I asked a very simple question. Tell me which are the States which have not fulfilled the target and are not showing signs of fulfillment of target. Is West Bengal one of them? Is Uttar Pradesh one of them? Is Madhya Pradesh one of them? Is Rajasthan one of them?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Procurement operations start normally after the 25th of April. By the end of June or by the 15th of July we will be in a position to say which are the States which have fallen short of their target. It is too early to pass a sweeping judgment.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Did I ask for a judgment? All that I asked is the names of the States. Give the figures. Do not give judgment.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Sir, I would just share my information with the hon'ble Member. Internally we have prepared some plan. What should be the procurement normally? Upto the 7th May we have anticipated 12 lakh tonnes of procurement. As against that, we have achieved 10 lakh tonnes. So it is very close to the target so far.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He wants the names of the States.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : As far as the assessment is concerned, I think it is too early to have any assessment as to where there will be substantial shortfalls.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Sir, I have a grievance on this matter. You kindly help us in such matters. We are entitled to know not the general figures but State-wise figures, the figures of procurement in each of the States. After all, there are 17 major States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, the Minister has promised to lay the statement on the Table of the House,

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Giving the figures?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: May I intervene for a while? So far as the up-to-date figures are concerned, my hon. colleague read out the figures as far as procurement up to the 8th of this month is concerned. He read out some of the States' figures and with regard to the remaining States, he said he would lay the figures on the Table of the House. May I inform the hon. Member that we are still in the process of procurement. It is true that some of the States have not been doing very well. I have contacted the Chief Ministers of those States—for instance, Bihar—and they have all assured me that the target fixed by us will be achieved by them before the season is over. They have indicated a number of difficulties which they have been facing. On account of shortage of diesel oil, shortage of power and so on, wheat has not come to the market and they say it will improve in the course of the next few weeks and they hope to achieve the target.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Why not levy?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: So far as levy is concerned, in two States levy is being imposed. In other States, as

my colleague has pointed out, if necessary that will also be done.

SHRI PITAMBER DAS: Sir, what I understand from what the hon. Minister and his colleague have said is that by a certain date or after some time, they expect the targets to be fully achieved. Now, as the situation exists today, the targets fixed for this period are said to have been approximately achieved; they have not been completely achieved. I want to know whether it is because of the opposition to this scheme from the Jana Sangh and their propaganda in this behalf that these targets could not be fully achieved so far? Is it because of that?

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA: That is one of the reasons.

SHRI PITAMBER DAS: Let them say so.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, some political parties are opposed to the takeover and are opposing procurement. That has some impact . . .

SHRI PITAMBER DAS: I have put a straight question about the Jana Sangh, not "some political parties". I have put this categorical question about the Jana Sangh because the Jana Sangh's name has been taken. I want to know whether this under-achievement is the result of the Jana Sangh's opposition to this scheme and their propaganda against it. It is a very clear question.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Naturally the Jan Sangh is openly opposing it and it must be having some impact. Since there are many other forces which are joining hands with the Jan Sangh, perhaps it is difficult for me to say. But it is having some adverse impact. But I think in this country the progressive forces will reach the people and the farmers will respond to the call and need of the country and will not respond to the call of those parties who are coming in the way of national interest and the proper management of the food economy of the country.

SHRI PITAMBER DAS: My question was quite categorical. I did not ask what will happen. They will reach the people. Let them do it. I am only concerned with the situation as it is at present. In spite of the massive mandate that they got, is it because of the Jan Sangh's opposition that their targets could not be achieved? Is it because of this propaganda and opposition that they are not having the targeted procurement?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, I have already made a statement. I would only add one sentence. My senior colleague referred to certain States. Our information is that because of power shortage and because of diesel not being available, threshing has been incomplete and because of that also some market arrivals have been affected. All these are contributing factors for some marginal shortfalls here and there.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Very good organisational preparations and administrative

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : बिहार के लेजिस्ले-

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. You cannot monopolise the time.

preparations have been made to see that steps

श्री राम सहाय : मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या उनके पास इस प्रकार की शिकायतें आई हैं कि जहां प्रोक्योरमेंट लेवी का गल्ला जाता है वहां उनकी खाली करने की, तोलने की व्यवस्था ठीक नहीं है, उनको पैसा वक्त पर नहीं मिलता है और कर्मचारी ठीक तरह से काम नहीं करते हैं।

दूसरे, जो प्राइस देने वाले हैं वह इस बात के जानकारी नहीं होते कि कीमत ठीक लगा रहे हैं कि नहीं। इस सबह से कीमतें ज्यादा नहीं लगाई जाती इस कारण से भी क्या आपको सूचना मिली है कि अनाज की बसूली कम हो रही है?

are taken in time and payment is made in time and if there is

any complaint of human failure, we propose to take a very strong action. But, by large, as compared to the prevalent market system, a very large number of centres have been organised and facilities have been made available to the farmers closest to their villages within a radius of 5 to 7 miles. And this is the first time that a very large number of centres, hundreds of centres, are operating in various States. In Madhya Pradesh, for example, from which the honourable Member comes, almost 500 to 600 centres are operating.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: May I know from the honourable Minister whether he has seen the press report that not only political parties, but the trading community is going openly to the producers and assuring them Rs. 110 to Rs. 120 and they are giving 50 per cent advance saying that the grain should be kept with the farmers themselves and they will take delivery of it afterwards? What punitive measures have been taken against such traders? That is number one . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one question please.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: This is a connected question, Sir. I am pointing out that these are the constraints on procurement. My second question is this. Why has not mass media been pressed into service to tell the peasants that at no time in the history of independent India did the price of wheat go beyond Rs. 65 in the month of April or May? This is the only year when the Government has come to give them Rs. 76 or Rs. 78, and in spite of that certain political parties and certain vested interests are making a propaganda that the producer is not getting an economic price. Why are not these facts being brought before the public and why is not the fact also brought before the people that the Agricultural Universities have made a survey where it has been stated that the highest cost of production is there in Punjab which is Rs. 58 per quintal and even then the producer is getting a sufficient margin to prosecute his farming with

considerable economic interests? Why are these facts not being brought out and why has the Government machinery failed so far in counteracting the propaganda of the vested interests?

SHRI PITAMBER DAS: Progressive forces will go to the people and do it.

SHRI CHANDER SHEKHAR: They are doing it.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: The honourable Member has raised a very important and fundamental issue. I am particularly inclined to agree with him. As far as the first part is concerned, under the scheme the retailer is not supposed to pay a much higher price. In fact, we have taken a policy decision that the retailer can sell only at a price which is in line with the fair price shops' price so that he need not pay a much higher price and naturally where this order has been promulgated, if any breach takes place there, that will attract the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and criminal action can follow. But we are reviewing the position from time to time and we propose to see that this sort of nefarious activities by the trading community advancing money to farmers and so on . . . (*Interruption*) . . . do not take place and we will take action against such activities and we have been drawing attention of the State Governments to this particular aspect of the problem. Then, as far as the second aspect of the problem is concerned, it is true that in this country producers were being exploited and in fact we have studies now available and the difference between the post-harvest price and the lean period was so much that the middlemen were indulging in profiteering and the producers were never in a position to get the reasonable price from any agency in the private trade. This is the first time as a result of the take-over that the producers would be assured of a reasonable level of prices. We do feel confident that in the long run, this scheme is going to protect the interests of millions of farmers and it is in the interests of producers and not against their

interests. On this particular aspect we had recently discussions with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. We feel that the information media should really take note of all these aspects and carry all these ideas to the millions of our people, producers and consumers.

श्री कमल नाथ झा : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को इस बात की जानकारी है कि गेहूँ का थोक व्यापार सरकारी नियंत्रण में लेने के बाद खास कर मुंबा विहार में बड़े बड़े व्यापारियों ने और जो दूसरे सौरखल है जैसे खेसाड़ी है, चना है, उन का मूल्य इतना अधिक बढ़ा दिया है कि कुछ कहना नहीं। 40 रुपये मन खेसाड़ी का मूल्य वहाँ है जिस के मायने हैं कि वह सौ रुपये क्विंटल हो गया है और इस के चलते इन दामों को बढ़ा कर वह लोगों के दिमाग में एक यह भावना पैदा करना चाहते हैं कि सरकार गेहूँ की कीमत कम दे रही है और वह इस तरह हमारे प्रोक्योरमेंट में बाधा डालना चाहते हैं। इस लिए मैं सरकार से यह जानकारी प्राप्त करना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे व्यापारियों पर कि जो दूसरे सौरखल का नाजायज मूल्य बढ़ा कर उन को इकट्ठा करते हैं क्या सरकार रेड कर के उन का वह गल्ला जल करेगी और क्या इसके लिए सरकार की कोई योजना है या नहीं है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: According to the suggestions which have been given to the State Governments, they, under the present difficult situation, are expected to put strict limits on hoarding of grains. There are provisions under the Essential Commodities Act under which they have to make declarations. Since the hon. Member has made a suggestion, we will again review the position afresh.

As regards the present price structure, it is a distorted price structure. Because of drought and shortages, the prices of other food grains which are not controlled or taken over have also gone up and the price structure is at a higher level and this is creating a distorted picture. But Government,

is seized of the matter and if hoarders try to create difficulties, we will advise the State Governments to take strong action against them.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: The hon. Minister gave us the figures of procurement of last year and this year . . .

[Interruptions]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Already we have taken half an hour over this question.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: The hon. Member gave us the figures of procurement ...

[Interruptions]

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: The subject is important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But I have not closed it.

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI: The hon. Minister gave us the figures of procurement for last year and also the comparative figures for this year. But in the last year private sector was also there for procurement and therefore the comparative figures will not give a correct position so far as this year is concerned. But what I would like to know from him is whether a proper machinery has been created for distribution of wheat which they procure because in the city of Bombay there were 18,000 and odd shops for distribution whereas today there are only 1,800 shops which have been licensed. Therefore, has the Government taken any care to see that proper distribution is done so that the people are not harassed and they do not have to waste their time in long queues. Whatever quota is fixed for them, whether it is 1 kg. or 2 kgs. they should be able to get through these distribution centres.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I can understand the comment of the hon. Member that the figures cannot be 100 per cent comparable. But the figures of market arrivals are there and they are a little more. For the information of the hon. Member, I may tell him that even last year in States

like Punjab and Haryana, 85 to 90 per cent of market arrivals were purchased by public sector agencies. So, these figures are not completely out of context. But, as I said, even the total market arrivals are higher than what they were last year.

Then, Sir, as far as the distribution arrangement is concerned, I share the view of the honourable Member that while we are prepared, it is equally necessary to see that very effective and efficient distribution arrangements need to be made not only in Bombay, but all over the country and we have taken up this matter with the State Government and my senior colleague has addressed a letter to the State Chief Minister stating that popular committees should be associated so that the malpractices are eliminated and an efficient system is evolved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Shyamlal Gupta.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Sir, Mr. Shinde is one of the honest Ministers in the Government and I take him at his words about the procurement figures that he has given. But, Sir, is it not a fact that the mass media, the radio and the television, in the country are propagating that they are selling wheat at the rate of 0.85 P. per kilo? The Minister can accompany me to any part in the city of Delhi and find out at what rate wheat is sold here. The poor-people have to pay Rs. 1.40 per kilo. Will the Government take any action to ensure that wheat or atta is sold at Re. 0.85 per kilo?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gupta, the question is about procurement.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: That is all right, Sir. But the mass media are propagating like this.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: There are two aspects of the problem. First of all, wheat and wheat products are distributed through the public distribution system which is under control. Now, so far

as the wheat which is supposed to be sold by the retailers is concerned, I am not prepared to contradict the information given by the honourable Member because till yesterday our information was that wheat was sold at higher prices by the retailers. Now, yesterday evening, the Delhi Administration has notified an order whereby the retailers have been prohibited from selling wheat at a price higher than the price prescribed by the Delhi Administration . . .

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: What is the position now?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Now the retailers are prohibited from selling wheat at prices higher than the ones prescribed by the Delhi Administration, that is, Rs. 83/- . Legally it may not be possible for anybody to go against this. If anybody contravenes this, he will attract the provisions of the law. This order has come into force only from yesterday evening.

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: I would like you to see that it does not take place.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Kapur.

श्री यशपाल कपूर: मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या थोक व्यापारियों द्वारा लाखों रुपये खर्च करके मोटे मोटे अक्षरों में जो विज्ञापन दिया गया सरकार द्वारा गेहूँ की थोक खरीद के विरोध में, क्या सरकार ने उन विज्ञापनों का उत्तर देना उचित नहीं समझा और क्या दूसरे मीडिया, जैसे आल इंडिया रेडियो से जो मण्डी भाव प्रसारित होने हैं क्या वे मण्डी भाव थोक व्यापारियों द्वारा बेचने के भाव होते हैं ? और क्या सरकार इस पर भी गौर करेगी कि जिन भावों पर व्यापारी किमान से वे चीजें खरीदते हैं क्या वह भाव भी बताए जाते जाएंगे क्योंकि किमान को बुरा लगता है जब 130 रु० क्विंटल चने का थोक भाव बताया जाता है और उसको गेहूँ का दाम 76 रुपये क्विंटल मिलता है। उसको यह समझने की जरूरत है कि चने का भाव

130 रु० कौन से व्यापारी का है और कौन व्यापारी ने उसको उम्मी दाया 50 रु० किलो मिलता है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, what the honourable Member has said is a suggestion for action, when we are trying to use the public media to educate public opinion on these matters. But, as I said, the prevailing level of prices, the price structure, particularly in the case of foodgrains or pulses where there is no control, has been naturally distorted because of the drought conditions, etc. But the Government will naturally have to give thought to this problem and see how to bring about some broad parity in the level of prices. But this is the long-term aspect of the problem and the Government will continue to attend to this problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Appan. Not here. Yes, Dr. Singh.

DR. V. B. SINGH: In answer to the questions put by Mr. Chandra Shekhar and Shri Kapur, the Minister has made two points. Number one is that the study to which Mr. Chandra Shekhar referred should have publicised that the cost of production is much lower than the cost of procurement. And this is a fact. Why is it that the Government has not publicized it? Connected with this is the problem of the publicity media—I am not talking of the newspapers and AJI India Radio—in the *mandis*. It was the wholesalers who reached first and asked the farmers to go back home rather than the Government agents telling them that they are offering a certain price . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should put your question. Do not repeat what Mr. Chandra Shekhar said . . .

DR. V. B. SINGH: I am saying that the relative price of wheat is lower than the relative price . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is no question.

DR. V. B. SINGH: This is the question. And for bridging that gap . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not putting the question straight. Kindly sit down. You are taking too much time . . .

DR. V. B. SINGH: Comprehensive measures have not been taken. You cannot equalise it in case the entire foodgrain is taken over.

MR. CHAIRMAN: AH right.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: The Agricultural Prices Commission has looked into this as far as procurement prices are concerned. The relative price level has been worked out. Generally the coarse grain prices are lower. But that is a different question and that is the present difficult situation. As far as the other suggestion is concerned, I think it is a suggestion for action and we take note of it.

श्री श्यामलाल यादव : मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार गेहूँ के थोक व्यापार और प्रोक्योरमेंट में कोई अन्तर समझती है या नहीं ? अगर समझती है तो प्रोक्योरमेंट लैवों के लिए उसने किसानों के लिए कोई सीमा बांधी है कि अगर तीन हेक्टर से ज्यादा मार्केटबुल सरप्लस होगा तो उसे ले लिया जायेगा ? आपने कहा कि हम इस बारे में सोच रहे हैं जब कि फसल बाजार में आ गई है और आप इस सुझाव को कब लागू करेंगे ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, at the moment we proposed to implement the scheme which has been evolved. But naturally based on experience we will try to improve upon the system. We appreciate what the hon. Member has said. In the midst of the season it is not wise to modify basically the scheme. But we will watch the situation as a result of the implementation of the scheme, and all necessary steps will be taken and the suggestions of the hon. Member will be borne in mind.

श्री नगेश्वर प्रसाद शाही: मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि आप जिस किसान से उसका गेहूँ निश्चित दाम पर ले रहे हैं, क्या उस गेहूँ के दाम के एवज में जो किसान सीमेंट, लोहा, खाद और दूसरी सामग्री चाहता है, ये चीजें उसको निश्चित दाम पर देने की व्यवस्था करेंगे?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Sir, it is a suggestion for action. In the long run, we propose to . . .

श्री नगेश्वर प्रसाद शाही: जब आपका लक्ष्य प्राप्त नहीं हो रहा है, तो आप इसको एडोप्ट करेंगे या नहीं?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Sir, it is a suggestion for action.

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा: अग्रज महोदय, वस्तुस्थिति यह है कि

श्री सभापति: आप बचान पृष्ठिये।

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा: वस्तुस्थिति यह है कि आप अपनी असफलता को दूसरों के मत्थे मढ़ना चाहते हैं। तो मैं आप से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने जो वक्तव्य दिया है उससे यह स्पष्ट हो जाता है कि आपका जो प्रोक्वोरमेंट का टारगेट है, वह पिछले वर्ष के मुकाबले अच्छा है और इसके माने यह हुआ कि आपको प्रोक्वोरमेंट में कोई परेशानी नहीं हो रही है। इसलिए मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब आपको प्रोक्वोरमेंट करने में किसी प्रकार की कोई परेशानी नहीं हो रही है, तो इस सम्बन्ध में सख्त से सख्त कदम उठाये जायेंगे, इस तरह की बातें क्यों कही जा रही हैं। आज के अखबार में मध्य प्रदेश के सम्बन्ध में सेठी जी का बयान निकला है कि प्रोक्वोरमेंट के सम्बन्ध में कोयरसिव मेजर्स एडाप्ट किये जायेंगे। जब आप को इस बारे में सफलता मिल रही है, तो फिर इस प्रकार के एक्शन लेने की बात क्यों सोची जा रही है?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Sir, I would only say that if we can get the co-operation from all parties and of colleagues like the hon. Member, I do not think it would be necessary to take any coercive measures in this matter.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: The difficulty is that the decisions are theirs and the cooperations is ours ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sit down, please.

182 [Transferred to 10th May, 1973]

IMPLEMENTATION OF LAND REFORMS LEGISLATION

183. SHRI GUNANAND THAKUR : will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of States which have passed land ceiling legislation :

(b) how much land has been distributed among the landless people in the country, State-wise; upto 1973; and

(c) the names of the States which have not implemented the lands reforms and the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The legislatures of fourteen States have passed revised land ceiling bills. These are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Of these except for the land ceiling bills of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, all other Bills have been enacted.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Even where laws have been enacted, implementation will take a certain length of time as various processes will have to be gone through before the surplus land is actually available for distribution.