

## RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday the 13th December, 1972 /  
the 22nd Agrayana 1894 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock. MR.  
CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### SETTING UP OF S.T.C. BY WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT

616. SHRI KALYAN ROY: +

SHRI PRANAB  
KUMAR  
MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be  
pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any  
request from the West Bengal Government for  
financial assistance to set up a State Trading  
Corporation in the State;

(b) if so, what is the total amount sought;  
and

(c) whether any decision has been taken in  
the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
(SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED)  
:

(a) and (b) Government have not received any  
specific request from the West Bengal  
Government for financial assistance to set up  
State Trading Corporation in that State. In  
September, 1972 a proposal to set up State  
Food Corporation was received in which that  
Government had envisaged that besides the  
capital of Rs. 10 crores to be provided by  
Central Government and the Food  
Corporation of India, State Government will  
require about Rs. 53 crores by way of bank  
advance for building up of a buffer stock of  
essential commodities for 3 months  
requirements.

(r) The proposal of the State Government to  
set up a State Food Corporation is under  
examination.

The question was actually asked on the  
floor of the House by Shri Kalyan  
Roy.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : I strongly protest  
that for such a long time—for about ten  
months—Government is sitting over it, and it  
has put us in difficulties.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You put your question.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : The question is  
this. Mr. Ahmed would agree that this is a sort  
of crisis in mustard oil and pulses in West  
Bengal, because we have to import from  
outside and the market is controlled by big  
wholesalers and they try to get maximum  
profit out of the scarcity. You would agree  
with me on this; there is no controversy on  
this point. In view of this, the West Bengal  
Government is persistently trying to set up a  
Food Corporation in that State in order not to  
solve the crisis but to ease the crisis, which  
crisis is developing. It is lying on their table  
for the last six months. I do not understand  
this. My first question is, when will you  
decide this matter finally ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I  
have already pointed out that the request was  
made in the month of September, and the  
matter is under the consideration of the  
Government. We have taken certain decisions,  
but the final decision is yet to be taken.

SHRI KALYAN ROY : My second ques-  
tion. It is very difficult to put questions to a  
Minister like this, because the answer is vague  
and ambiguous and the reply given  
is the same again and again.

The crisis is developing in West Bengal.  
The West Bengal Government is persistently  
sending SOS. Would you please decide it early  
so that the West Bengal Government (d'A  
immediately start setting it up and then the  
decision can come, and then you can give the  
money that you are to give to the West Bengal  
Government for setting it up ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :  
The matter has to be decided not on  
the basis of one State alone. The  
same request has been made by several other  
States, and the entire matter has to be looked  
into and an early decision in the matter will  
be taken.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:  
When the idea of setting up a State Food

Corporation came in the month of September' the Minister had in view that in the current procurement season the West Bengal Government would be in a position to procure sufficient food material and to supply foodgrains through public distribution system. In view of that, I would like to know from the Minister whether the desire of certain other States will also be taken into account and whether this proposal has been opposed by certain States ? That is No. 1. In that connection I would like to know further from him whether when the original FCI Act came into existence there was a provision that if any State Government desires to establish a State Food Corporation of its own the FCI and the Government of India will come forward with adequate financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 10 crores ? If so, why is the Government taking so much time to come to a final decision ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, so far as the second part of the question is concerned, it is because of the provision in the Food Corporation of India Act to set up a subsidiary corporation that the matter is under examination. So far as the position of other States is concerned, we have not got any opposition.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the proposal of the State Government is primarily for the procurement of non-cereal items, in view of the scarcity of the non-cereal items in the State as well as the unstable supply also ? I would also like to know whether the State Government was not at all moved in case of supply of coconut to Bangla Desh, which has recently been agreed to by the State Trading Corporation of India and Bangla Desh Government, which is worth about Rs. 11.75 crores. It has come out in the papers that the entire order has been allocated to two firms of Maharashtra, which they themselves do not produce and they procure it from outside market and send to the Bangla Desh Government.

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, the proposal is mainly for procuring essential commodities like pulses, sugar, mustard oil, etc. and it is for that reason that the matter is being considered by us. We are considering whether it will help

the other States or whether it will create difficulties for the other States where these commodities are to be procured. Unless and until a decision is taken on an all-India basis, it will be very difficult for us to accept the proposal.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : The hon. Minister said that many State Governments have asked for establishment of such corporations. May I know what are the names of the States who have asked for them and whether they are concerned with these items and also with the question of food take-over ? The recent Chief Ministers' Conference discussed it. Whether it is a fact that some of the Chief Ministers are going back on the earlier decision of take-over of food during the rabi season ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : So far as the States which have asked for similar facilities are concerned, these are Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. So far as the other question is concerned that there is difficulty in procurement during the rabi season, there has been some opposition so far as the kharif crop was concerned. There has been no opposition in the rabi season.

SHRI M. ANANDAM : Sir, it has been widely published in the papers in this country that the ruling party has taken a decision to run the food trade. Therefore, if the States are allowed to create their own State Trading Corporations, where does the Centre come into the picture? Will they not compete with each other and will it not be a ruination of the country ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : This is one of the considerations which is under examination,

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : The foodgrains are supplied to the States at the rate of only 600 tonnes per day which is a very inadequate supply. May I ask the hon. Minister how long he will take to have a final decision on the setting up of the State Trading Corporations or Food Corporations for the States so that they are at least capable of procuring themselves these items so that the entire rationing system in the States does not break down ?

SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : It is no! a relevant question because we are dealing with the setting up of Food Corporations in the States and not with the supply of foodgrains to the Corporations.

स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय की समितियों में  
अवैतनिक रूप से काम करने वाले  
व्यक्तियों की नियुक्ति

\* 617. डा० भाई महावीर : †

श्री ना० कृ० शेजवल्कर :

श्री पीताम्बर दास :

श्री प्रेम मनोहर :

श्री ओइम् प्रकाश त्यागी :

क्या निर्माण और आवास तथा स्वास्थ्य  
और परिवार नियोजन मंत्री यह बताने  
की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उनके मंत्रालय की विभिन्न समिति-  
यों में अवैतनिक रूप से काम करने  
के लिए नियुक्त व्यक्तियों के नाम क्या  
हैं ; और

(ख) उनकी योग्यता का विवरण  
क्या है और उनमें से प्रत्येक को हर वर्ष  
दिये गये विभिन्न भत्तों की राशियां  
क्या हैं ?

^APPOINTMENTS IN HONORARY CAPACITY  
or"  
PERSONS IN COMMITTEES OF THE MINISTRY OF  
HEALTH

617. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR :

SHRI PITAMBER DAS :

SHRI PREM MANOHAR :

SHRI (). P. TYAGI :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUS-  
ING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLAN-  
NING be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the persons appointed in  
honorary capacity in different Committees  
under his Ministry; and

fThe question was actually asked on the  
HiM.i of the House by Dr. Bhai Mahavir.  
\$[ ] English translation.

(b) the details of their qualifications and  
amount of various allowances paid to each of  
them every year ?]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU) : (a) and  
(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the  
Sabha [See Appendix LXXXII, Annexure  
No. i>7] giving the names of the Committees  
functioning in the Ministry of Health and  
Family Planning on which members other  
than Government officials are serving, names  
of such members and the amount admissible  
to them (other than travelling allowance and  
daily allowance which are paid according to  
Government rules). Such members are  
appointed on these Committees keeping in  
view their suitability for the functions  
entrusted to the respective Com-

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, the statement is

\$ [स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन  
मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री ए० के०  
किस्कू) : (क) और (ख) एक विवरण  
देखिए परिशिष्ट 82, अनुपत्र संख्या 67)  
जिसमें स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन  
मंत्रालय के अन्तर्गत चल रही समितियों  
में सरकारी कर्मचारियों के अतिरिक्त  
अन्य सदस्यों के नाम तथा उन्हें देय  
धनराशि (यात्रा भत्ता तथा दैनिक भत्तों  
के अलावा जो कि सरकारी नियमों के  
अनुसार उन्हें दिए जाते हैं) का उल्लेख  
है, सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।  
इन सदस्यों को संबंधित समिति के कर्तव्यों  
को निभाने की उनकी कार्यकुशलता को  
देखते हुए नियुक्त किया जाता है।]

incomplete and I would seek your ruling on  
this. The second part of the question in which I  
asked for details of the qualifications has not  
been touched. The Minister says that it is done  
after consideration of their suitability for the  
particular posts. That is the point. We doubt  
whether the suitability is considered on the  
basis of any objective criterion about their  
qualifications and how much they know of the  
particular work that is expected of the  
committee. We want to find out how much of  
this suitability is because of

\$[ ] Hindi translation.