

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 Govern-
ment 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 build-
ing up of a buffer stock of essential com-
modities for 3 months requirements.

(c) 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 pro-
test 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 ques-
tion.

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 maxi-
mum profit out of the scarcity. You would
agree with me on this; there is no contro-
versy 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 devel-
oping. 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
can 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. 3.75 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 atleast 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 not 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 शेजवलकर :

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 समितियों 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 राशि क्या है ?

‡[APPOINTMENTS IN HONORARY CAPACITY OF
PERSONS IN COMMITTEES OF THE MINISTRY
OF HEALTH

*617. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR :

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR :

SHRI PITAMBER DAS :

SHRI PREM MANOHAR :

SHRI O. P. TYAGI :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

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

†The question was actually asked on the floor 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. 67] 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 Committees.

§ [स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री ए० के० किस्कु) . (क) और (ख) एक विवरण देखिए परिशिष्ट 82, अनुपत्र सख्या 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 भत्ता 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।]

DR BHAI MAHAVIR : Sir, the statement is 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.