

कैजुअल लेबर मुख्यतः पटरियों पर सोने वाले होते हैं लेकिन क्या आपने कोई इस प्रकार का सर्वे किया है कि जो पटरियों पर सोने वाले हैं वे अकेले व्यक्ति हैं या सपरिवार लोग हैं? आपने, जो दिल्ली में रैन बसेरा की योजना की है, उसमें क्या आपने भी केन्द्रीय सरकार की ओर से व्यय में योगदान दिया है कि नहीं और दिल्ली में रैन बसेरा निर्माण करने के बाद क्या अन्य प्रान्तों की राजधानियों में, जैसे बम्बई और कलकत्ता में भी लोगों को रैन बसेरा देने की योजना बनाई है ?

श्री उमाशंकर दीक्षित : इसमें पुरुष ही होते हैं। श्रीमन्, जहां तक पटरियों पर रहने वालों का प्रश्न है, वहां उनकी महिलाओं का या पत्नियों के रहने का प्रश्न नहीं उठता है। यह सब पुरुषों के ही रहने का प्रश्न है . . .

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON: These pavement dwellers live with their families.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : The trouble is that he is not answering a part of the question.

(interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will not allow interruptions

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : I would request you to see that he answers all the points.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him complete the answer. Then I will see whether it is complete or not.

SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT: Sir, so far as the conditions in Delhi are concerned, the pavement dwellers are

mostly male. Women do not sleep there-It is mostly males who come to the shelters which we have provided. The management here is mostly under the Municipal Corporation and there are the Bharat SevaU Samaj, Lions Club and the Christian Missionary Society and several other institutions managing them but the Corporation looks after the buildings. Some of the other shelters are managed and provided for by the Corporation.

*331. [The questioner (Shri Ganesh Lai Mali) was absent. For answer, vide eol. 35 infra.]

AvAn-AMLiTY OF GOVERNMENT WASTE LAND

- 332. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :
SHRI V. B. RAJU :
SHRI KRISHAN KANT :
SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA :
SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH MUSAFIR :
SHRI J. S. TILAK :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether estimates have been made about Government waste land available in the country, state-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how much of this land has been distributed during the last 3 years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) The Waste land Survey & Reclamation Committee appointed in 1959 located 6.33 lakh hectares of wasteland in com-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chandra Shekhar.

pact blocks of hundred hectares and above. A centrally sponsored scheme taken up during the Third Five Year Plan to identify waste land which can be brought under cultivation in blocks of less than 10½ hectares, located 22.96 lakh hectares of culturable wasteland in blocks of less than 100 hectares. These are rough estimates of waste land including Government lands.

(c) So far, 5.7 million hectares of Government wasteland have been distributed since the time of the abolition of intermediary rights. Separate figures for the last three years are not available and are being collected.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: May I know from the Government as to how do they explain this phenomenon that to distribute surplus land available, whether with the Government or with private agencies, being one of the main programmes of the Government, the Government has not got the official figures even to this day when the idea was mooted in the First Five Year Plan? What are the difficulties in arriving at a correct figure? What are the surplus lands available with the Government and what are the difficulties in finding out why these lands were not distributed among the landless labour.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, about statistics the difficulty is, when I have to reply with responsibility in Parliament and particularly to Chandra Shekhar ji, naturally I have to take care to see that I am very uptodate and precise. Therefore . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Otherwise you won't be here!

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Therefore he has no information!

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Therefore I did not take the risk of furnishing figures which are not uptodate. We have referred it immediately to the State Gov-

ernments to furnish us uptodate figures. The total figure which I have mentioned in my reply is 5.7 million hectares which have so far been distributed since the time of abolition of intermediary rights. The figure that has been given is a firm one. But I quite appreciate the concern of the hon. Member that this should really have continued to engage our attention. Either my colleague or I will again write to the State Governments and try to obtain the latest figures. But I would like to explain the broad aspects of the problem.

Many of these waste lands are of a very poor quality. Naturally when they are given to the landless labourers and the poorer sections of the society, because the infrastructure in our country is weak the necessary resources are not being made available. It is our experience in many parts of the country that where lands are allotted, whether out of waste lands or others, after some time the cultivators themselves find it difficult to continue cultivation. Recently, in fact, we took some measures in South Bihar and Chota Nag-pur area where we found that from the Adivasis money lenders and others grab those lands from them because they were finding it difficult. So this problem really needs very close attention and unless the necessary infrastructure is built up and more resources are made available to the poorer sections and the landless labourers I do not think only allotment of land will solve the problem. This was also discussed at the last Chief Ministers' Conference and we have told the Chief Ministers that while allotting land necessary support should also be given to the poorer sections so that they are in a position to use those lands economically.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, is it not a fact that on all vital questions which really affect the poorer sections, whether it is allotment of sites to the homeless in the villages or distribution of land to the landless workers, the attitude of the State Governments has

been, since the last 25 years, that of callousness and even to day there seems to be no change in this attitude. Is the Government aware that in spite of our proclamation for the last three years even to this date we are not able to know the real nature of the problem and the magnitude of the problem, and in the absence of this basic information or basic data it is neither possible for the Government to have any infrastructure nor to implement any plan of helping these poorer sections with some purpose and some effect. So, will the Government take immediate steps at least to complete the basic information in the near future and, if so, what time will they take for getting the basic information about these problems?

AN HON. MEMBER : Another 25 years!

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : We will take necessary steps as suggested by the hon. Member. I would also like to add that as a result of discussions in Parliament this question is raised from time to time in national debates outside and during the last three years lands were distributed on a much larger scale as compared to the past. I have only mentioned that precise statistics, latest figures are not available, but lands have been distributed. These dialogues and debates have been useful in that the State Governments did take action. But as the Constitution today is, this is a State subject. Naturally we have to depend on the willing co-operation of the State Governments.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the Resolution passed by the AICC at Patna that all the Government waste lands will be distributed within a period of one year? Is he aware of that? Already a period of three years is over . , .

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: He is a Congressman himself; he must be aware of it.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : I am asking for the information for you. Can he give the comparative figures as to how much land has been distributed since the Resolution was passed as compared to the earlier period of three years? What types of waste lands are there in the country? Is he also aware that many of the waste lands have been given to Government servants and politicians who are otherwise landless but have other means of occupation, instead of being given to the landless people and the Harijans in the villages, even the canal areas and the river areas?

SHRI PITAMBER DAS : I have a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

SHRI PITAMBER DAS : The question can be asked, the comparative figures can be obtained but not in the background of the Resolution of the All India Congress. The House as such has nothing to do with the All India Congress Resolution.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, about the latest statistics and comparative figures, I have said that we are collecting the information and when the information is obtained, I shall be glad to furnish the same to the hon. Member. As for the misuse, there may be some categories of persons who may have taken lands. Some cases have been reported from States but by and large I can say. Sir, that except in some cases where the misuse might have taken place, the lands have substantially gone to the weaker sections. The difficulty was that because of lack of support to them they could not avail themselves of the land. About the second aspect, the waste lands which remain to be distributed are very coarse and of poor quality. Many a time they are not fit for agriculture, but the State Governments have taken positive steps in this direction during the last year.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : What about the encroachment by landlords on the

government land? What have you done about it? That is the basic question.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : The State Governments have to take steps if there is any encroachment.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: I understand from the Minister's reply that some distribution of land has been made. I want to know whether any priorities have been fixed in this regard. If so, what is the position of the demobilised defence personnel in getting this waste land or surplus land?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Priorities are very clearly laid down and have been discussed a number of times in the Chief Ministers' Conferences. The priority is there for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and landless labourers, etc. There is another category also in which even the defence personnel stand. They are there but the first priority is to the weaker sections, that means the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : सभापति जी, बहुत सी बातें जो मैं पूछना चाहता था वह क्लियर हो गई हैं। मुझे तसल्ली है कि माननीय मंत्री ने सवालों के जवाब में कहा है कि गरीबों के लिए, किसानों के लिए, हरिजनों के लिए जमीन दे रहे हैं। इसमें एक्स-सर्विसमेन का सवाल भी आ गया है। मैं एक ही बात पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या माननीय मंत्री महोदय यह हिदायत राज्य सरकारों को देने के लिए तैयार हैं कि वे इसके मुताबिक जल्दी से जल्दी अमल करें।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: That has already been communicated to the State Governments.

SHRI J. S. TILAK : Has Government any plan for reclamation of desert

land in Rajasthan or Chambal area and for distributing them? To establish landless people on those lands has Government drawn any plan for subsidising them with money, fertiliser and agricultural implements, etc.?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, in Rajasthan it is a very difficult proposition, particularly in the western part of Rajasthan because vast stretches of land are lying there. Unless irrigation facility is there, nobody can do even the technical allotment. (Interruption). The hon. Member referred to the general allotment of waste land in the western part of Rajasthan. As far as Chambal area is concerned, the ravine reclamation on a very modest scale is being carried out but that is on a modest scale and we are trying to make them economically viable because very large amounts are required for reclaiming these ravine lands in order to make them fit for agriculture. There is a scheme but it is a modest scheme.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that 1/3rd of the cultivable waste land in India as a whole is cultivable. If so, what is the policy of the Government in putting this 1/3rd of cultivable waste land into agricultural operation? Secondly, he has avoided answering the question as to how many political persons and hangers-on of the Congress and other political parties, big and small, have been allotted these lands. That question was specifically asked. He should make a statement or give the names to whom lands have been given. He has also said that though the weaker sections have got lands because of lack of infrastructure they could not hold on to the land and if that is so why does not the Government make the infrastructure within the reach of the weaker sections? Your infrastructure is only within the reach of the richer sections and a thin layer of the upper peasantry and not the peasantry as a whole. Why don't you

make a rule that there cannot be any transfer of these lands and the produce of the land cannot be grabbed by any other person. I hope the ex-Marxist would now deal with . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Niren Ghosh, your question is too long.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : The total amount of fallow land, other than current fallow and culturable waste, according to the land utilisation statistics, is about 25 million acres. That is our estimate and not 1/3 as mentioned by the hon. Member but this can be improved upon because some categories may not have been included in this.

The second point he made was that the political parties may have exploited this. I would not like to enter into any controversy on this subject but I have information that even the most radical party workers also sometimes do not really escape this sort of temptation.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Give us the facts; I would like to know.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : But my Ministry has not specifically gone in this but we do get reports from time to time. I would only say—and I agree with the hon. Member—that this has to be resisted, even penalised if necessary. This should not be encouraged in any way.

One point remains, Sir. The hon. Member made a charge that nothing is being done to support the small farmer. I would not agree with the hon. Member in that. We may not have done to their full satisfaction or adequately but a small farmers scheme and a marginal farmers scheme have been taken up on a very large scale in the country now in order to see what infrastructure is necessary. If we get sufficient experience in the Fourth Plan we propose to cover

the entire country so that the necessary infrastructure to support the small farmers is created. Recently the National Commission on Agriculture has gone into this problem and made some recommendation. So the Government is very much seized of this problem.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : May I know if most of the Government waste land distributed to the weaker section during these 20 years is not in their possession now but it has changed so many hands ? It is because uneconomic holdings have been allotted to the weaker section in their anxiety to allot land to larger number of people in the weaker section. Is it not a fact ? I would also like to know how much land is remaining now with the Government. Unfortunately nobody has got the statistics with regard to the availability of surplus land. Neither the State Government nor the Central Government has got these statistics. I do not want to blame the Central Government because it is entirely the responsibility of the State Governments. Is it not a fact that most of the land available with the State Governments has been encroached by influential classes with the result that land is not available for distribution amongst the landless people ? I want to know from the Government whether they are considering because the area under forest is improving and whatever waste land is there . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your question is too long.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : I am finishing, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to call some other Members.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Are you thinking of bringing in most of these areas, which are not good for cultivation, to improve the acreage under forest ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I think it is a good suggestion and forests

in this country should be protected. Waste lands which are not fit for agriculture, instead of allowing them to lie fallow, should be used so that the necessary land cover is provided. Being based on the sound principle of soil conservation, this is a good suggestion. As far as the economic viability is concerned, I have already replied to some of these queries.

SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA : There are considerable cultivable areas lying around railway lines. Has the Government any scheme to utilise them for cultivation and allot them to landless labour ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, a good question.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: We have advised the Railways from time to time to use the land to the extent it is not required by the Railways and some steps have been taken by the Railways to give the land for cultivation to the lower class employees of the Railways.

SHRI YASHPAL KAPUR : No doubt allotment of land to the weaker sections has to be given the first priority, but is he aware that in most of the cases where the land has been allotted it is only on paper ? Actually the weaker sections of the people have not been given possession of it. Is he going to do something about it ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : We will draw the attention of the State Governments to this.

SHRI K. S. MALLE GOWDA : Has the Government not yet realised that it is better to give employment to landless peasants than to give them two or three acres of uneconomic land when they have no finance and they are not literate like the Japanese farmers ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : This is really a larger problem related to the economy of this country. Ultimately the

problem of millions of landless labour cannot be solved by the allotment of land. The land is just not available.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : जापान में छोटी होल्डिंग हैं वहाँ कैसे होता है . . .

श्री सभापति : यादव साहब आप उनका जवाब देने लगे ? आप बैठ जाइये ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : The point is how the small holdings can be made viable. Our ideas on the economy of small holdings have changed. Even small holdings can be made viable relatively. Regarding the large number of landless labour, ultimately unless our economy develops and sufficient growth rate is achieved, I do not think this problem can be solved, only sectorally. Some marginal solutions will be available, but the final solution will depend ultimately on the development of our economy and its development in different directions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Bbai Mahavir, a short question. This is the last question.

डा० भाई महावीर : इन्फ्रान्स्ट्रक्चर की कमी की बात आपने कही और कहा कि साधन नहीं मिल पाते हैं कि छोटे लोगों को जमीन दी जाए । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सारे बैंकों को अपने हाथ में लेने के बाद, कोऑपरेटिव सोसायटीज का ढांचा चलाने के बाद कौन-सी कमी है जिसके कारण आप जिसको जरूरत है उसे साधन उपलब्ध नहीं करा सकते ? क्या इन जमीनों की खेती के लिए खेतिहरों के लिए कंसल्टेंसी सर्विस की जरूरत है जो उनको उनकी प्राबल्य समझा कर उनको हल करे, इसके लिए क्या व्यवस्था है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : The co-operative banks and the co-operative structure are weak in a number of areas. It is known to the hon. Member himself.

This is despite the fact that in some areas the co-operatives are strong and they are doing something modest for helping the smaller sections. Even that is very modest. As regards commercial banks; unfortunately though they have been given a directive that they should try and help these sections, they have a very limited experience in this field and they are trying their level best. I think it will take quite some time by the time they are in a position to reach substantial sections of this population.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : What about some consultancy service ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : That is a very relevant matter. We find that today in modern agriculture unless extension services and strong technical services are given, the small farmer will not get necessary help, even if the necessary inputs are made available. Therefore, under the small farmer scheme, we have tried to incorporate these ideas.

*333 [The questioner (Shri O. P. Tyagi) was absent. For answer, vide cols 36-38 ... infra]

PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

- *334. SHRI V. B. RAJU :
 SHRI GURUMUKH SINGH
 MUSAFIR :
 SHRI J. S. TILAK :
 SHRI BRAHMANANDA
 PANDA : SHRI KRISHAN
 KANT:SHRICHANDRASHEKHAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what has been the progress in the establishment of public distribution system throughout the country?

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurumukh Singh Musafir.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : Public distribution system through fair price shops has been considerably strengthened and augmented since August, 1972. The number fair of price shops functioning in the country has now gone up to over 1.61 lakhs as against about 1.25 lakhs reported till the 9th August, 1972. At present, wheat, rice and levy sugar at fixed prices are being issued through these shops. A decision has also been taken to sell the entire production of controlled cloth through fair price shops approved by the State Governments, Super Bazar, fair price shops affiliated to the National Cooperative Consumers Federation and mills' retail shops.

**श्री गुरुमुख सिंह मुसाफिर : डिस्ट्री-
 ब्युशन के मुतालिक कोई शिकायत आपके
 आई है ।**

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Yes, Sir. We do get some complaints from time to time. But recently a number of steps have been taken to strengthen the distribution system in the country as a whole.

SHRI J. S. TILAK : Because of the rise in prices and the famine and drought conditions, are you thinking of enlarging the scope of the fair price shops adding some more essential goods in the list and also of expanding the network ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : The commodities concerned I have broadly indicated. And in this there can always be scope, depending upon the availability-production and procurement efforts are there — to include them and the approach of the Government of India is : in times to come we propose to include the most important essential commodities so that they are available at a reasonable level of prices to the consumers.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA : So far as my information goes, many of