

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Perhaps this is the biggest contribution he has made to tell us that it is the Parliament that makes laws.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : Because my hon. friend does not seem to be knowing it. He said Government makes the laws; Government does not make laws.

The second point my hon. friend has made is whether there should be a separate consideration for urban land and for urban construction. This point also we will consider when we examine the details.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : My question was whether with the diverse ceilings the Government does not want a uniform law.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : The Government does want a uniform law. That is why the Government of India has been requesting the States to empower Parliament to make the law.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: Will the hon. Minister explain what steps are being taken for plugging the loopholes and the malpractices that are envisaged in enforcing the law ? To illustrate one malpractice which I have in mind, is that anyone is free to mortgage his land over and above the ceiling to a bank and get loan against the land. Once the land is mortgaged to a bank, Ceiling Act cannot touch it. In effect this will be the easiest way of defeating the Ceiling Act.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL : About mortgages also there are many implications. It is correct that some sort of fictitious mortgages may be done. We are also aware that in this country through public institutions like LIC, through the Government of India, through the State Governments, substantial amounts of money have been given as advances to various house builders and those houses are also mortgaged. Therefore when we examine the issue in detail all these aspects have to be examined carefully.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI: I am talking of mortgages which may have been honourably done, very correctly and legally done and which does not violate any regulation.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Madam, your question has been answered.

#### PROCUREMENT PRICE OF WHEAT

- 210. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH t  
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI : SHRI  
GULAM NABI UNTOO : SHRI  
CHANDRA SHEKHAR : SHRI D.  
P. SINGH : DR. Z. A. AHMAD :  
SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : SHRI  
CHANDRAMOULI  
JAGARLAMUDI : SHRI  
LOKANATH MISRA : SHRI K. C.  
PANDA : SHRI SUNDAR MANI  
PATEL : SHRI SITARAM KESRI :  
SHRI N. G. GORAY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided not to accept the recommendations of the Agricultural Prices Commission to reduce the procurement price of wheat ; and

(b) the reaction of each State Government towards these recommendations and to the Central Government's decision in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The recommendations made by the Agricultural Prices Commission in its Report on Price Policy for Rabi Foodgrains for the 1972-73 Marketing Season were considered at the Conference of Chief Ministers held on the 13th April, 1972. Excepting West Bengal and Mysore, the State Governments disagreed with the recommendation of the Commission that the procurement price of wheat for the ensuing season be reduced. After careful consideration, taking into account all relevant factors, the Central Government decided that the procurement price of wheat for the marketing season 1972-73 be continued at the last year's level.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the hon. Minister say what has been the last price ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Last year's price has been Rs. 76 for ordinary Mexican and between Rs. 71 to Rs. 74 for the indigenous red.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Pratibha Singh.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : What were the prices suggested by the Government

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : By the Agricultural Prices Commission, you mean ? It was Rs. 72 for the fair average quality of Mexican and others and Rs. 66 for the indigenous red.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : I do not know how the Agricultural Prices Commission works but over a number of years I have noted that the recommendations of the Commission are generally out of tune with the realities of the situation. In this case also it seems obvious.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. What is your question ?

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : I would like the hon. Minister to examine the functioning of the Agricultural Prices Commission, its personnel, and make it less academic than it is today. Bring it more in tune with the realities of the situation. That means put people on the Commission who are in active touch with the problems of agriculture, the day-to-day problems of agriculture and agriculturists. Are you going to re-examine the working of the Agricultural Prices Commission because there is a lot of dissatisfaction about its functioning ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : At the outset, I would like to submit, and the hon. Member perhaps will appreciate, that the members of the Agricultural Prices Commission are eminent economists and I think they have rendered yeoman service to this country because they represent the interests of consumers and producers. The Government have taken into consideration the observations and criticisms made from time to time on the floor of this House and elsewhere and, therefore, the Government have now come to the conclusion that they would like to strengthen the Agricultural Prices Commission by adding one representative of the producers and one representative of the consumers.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : You should take more.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : Save usi from kulaks.

श्री बनारसी दास : श्रीमन्, गेहूँ की कीमतें कई साल पहले निर्धारित की गई थीं, उसके बाद गेहूँ के उत्पादन की कीमत काफी

बढ़ गई है और दूसरे उद्योगों की कीमत काफी बढ़ गई है, आज किसानों में मौजूदा कीमतों से काफी असंतोष है, तो क्या गवर्नमेंट गेहूँ की इन प्राइसेज को बढ़ाने पर विचार करेगी ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : There is no question of increasing the level of prices because as the hon. Member and the House are aware, the purchasing power of a very large section of the population is very low and we have to balance the interests of the producers and consumers. Though the price was originally fixed three or four years ago, I appreciate the argument of the hon. Member that the cost of production has gone up. At the same time, it should not be forgotten that productivity has also gone up. Ultimately Government is trying to have some sort of balance between the interests of the consumers and producers. We have that at heart because the wheat economy has helped this country to attain self-sufficiency. The Government of India is taking all these factors into consideration. The main factor should be to see how as a result of this outstanding achievement the interests of millions of poor people in this country are safeguarded.

श्री मान सिंह बर्मा : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को यह ज्ञात है कि किसान को वह कीमत नहीं मिल पा रही है जो उन्होंने निश्चित की है ? जब किसान अपना माल लेकर मंडी में जाता है तो वहां वह पाता है कि क्वालिटी के नाम पर उसको कम कीमत दी जाती है। जो गवर्नमेंट का स्टाफ है और आढ़ती हैं वे दोनों मिलकर आपस में आवा-आवा बांट लेते हैं। यदि आपके पास इस प्रकार की कोई इनफार्मेशन आई है तो उनका क्या निराकरण आपने सोचा है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : We do receive a few complaints from time-to-time. Suppose a specific complaint is there. We do take it up with the organisations which are purchasing wheat. There are three agencies which are operating in the market, viz., the State Governments, the Food Corporation and the Co-operative federations. By and large, I may submit that a very large-scale procurement is taking place. At least from 1½ lakh tonnes to 2 lakh tonnes of wheat are procured every day, but the number of complaints are very small. We are still trying to attend to

these complaints. The Government is trying to make direct purchases from the farmers, so that the middlemen, etc. are eliminated. In UP, for the first time, large-scale direct purchases have been taken up.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : Very creditable work has been done.

**श्री मान सिंह वर्मा :** गम्भीर बात यह है कि आप का स्टाफ मिडिलमैन का काम करने लगा है। That is the difficulty.

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : In view of the fact that price support for wheat is still continuing, will the hon. Minister consider about giving price support for jute also, as the jute growers in West Bengal are suffering tremendously as jute is available from other sources also now ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is about the procurement price of wheat.

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI : The difficulty about the Agricultural Prices Commission's recommendation was that it was announced after the harvest. If steps are taken to see that the Commission's advice is sought before sowing, then the price may be determined before sowing.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Yes, Sir. The Government of India's intention now is from next year onwards, to ask the Agricultural Prices Commission to give us their report much ahead of the sowing season and the Government of India would like to announce the decision about the procurement price of wheat before the next season.

**श्री नवल किशोर :** श्रीमन्, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ मन्त्री महोदय से कि उन्होंने यह बात कही कि हमको कंज्यूमर के इंस्ट्रेस्ट को देखना पड़ता है, यह बात सही है, लेकिन क्या एग्रीकल्चर प्राइस कमीशन में कोई ऐसी भी मशीनरी है जो कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन निकलती हो गेहूँ की; क्योंकि आपकी जो एग्रीकल्चर यूनिवर्सिटीज़ हैं उनके हिसाब से गेहूँ का कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन 88 रु० आता है जबकि उसका मास स्केल पर प्रोडक्शन होता है, छोटे छोटे काश्तकारों की बात छोड़ दीजिये। तो जब वहां 85 से 88 रुपये कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन प्रति क्विंटल आती है तो मैं यह अर्ज कर रहा

या कि फिर क्या जस्टिफिकेशन है गवर्नमेंट के पास कि वह गेहूँ की 66 या 76 रुपये कीमत रखे ? तो मैं यह कह रहा हूँ कि आपकी नीयत 76 रुपये गेहूँ की कीमत रखने की है, लेकिन यह कीमत भी उस कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन से 12 रुपये कम है, जोकि एग्रीकल्चर यूनिवर्सिटीज़ के हिसाब से आती है ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE :  
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Agricultural Prices Commission does consult the various Agricultural Universities, and we are aware that various figures were indicated as far as the cost of production is concerned. But the Commission also, after taking into consideration the various data which were available to it, came to the conclusion that the price of Rs. 76 is fairly above the cost of production. There could be two views on that. Now, the Government of India has a very comprehensive scheme for collecting the data about cost of production of the principal crops in the country. The data have started coming, and we anticipate that from next year onwards that they will be much more scientifically based, and these differences can be ironed out.

**श्री श्याम लाल यादव :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब आप जानते हैं कि उत्पादन व्यय में उत्तरोत्तर वृद्धि हो रही है और वसूली मूल्य जिसको आप समर्थन मूल्य कहें या संरक्षण मूल्य कहें उसको घटाने की प्रवृत्ति कमीशन की तरफ से दिखायी देती है और उपभोक्ताओं के मूल्य में आप कमी करना चाहते हैं तो इन तमाम बातों का विचार करते हुए क्या सरकार की नीति है यह कि किसान को लाभदायक मूल्य उनके उत्पादन का दिया जा सके अथवा केवल संरक्षण और समर्थन मूल्य ही उनको दिया जायेगा ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, it is well known that the Government of India is second to none in protecting the interests of the producers. As I was submitting, ultimately the whole problem of food economy has to be taken into consideration. Now, when we have attained self-sufficiency and we are having a sizeable surplus of wheat production, we have to see that the present position is utilised to protect the interests of the poorer sections of the society also.

DR. V. B. SINGH : In view of the fact that the Government has failed to explain the composition and functioning of the Agricultural Prices Commission and has also failed to explain why there is a difference between the procurement price and the support price, will it not be better to abolish the Commission altogether ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. A very good question.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : We do not agree at all with the assessment of the hon. Member. As I said, the Agricultural Prices Commission has rendered valuable service, and a very interesting and useful debate has been taking place as a result of this. I am quite sure that as a result of the service rendered by the Commission and the debate taking place on the floor of the House and outside also in the country, appropriate Government policy will be evolved.

श्री गनेशी लाल चौधरी : माननीय मन्त्री जी ने अभी बताया कि देश के करोड़ों लोगों के लिये गेहूँ की कीमत बढ़ाना हितकर नहीं है और माननीय मन्त्री जी की समाजवादी सरकार है और देश के हित में गेहूँ की कीमत बढ़ाना अच्छा नहीं है, तो क्या माननीय मन्त्री जी इस बात पर विचार करेंगे कि किसान को जो किसानों के काम के लिये रोजमर्रा के इस्तेमाल की चीजें हैं, जैसे बैल है, फर्टिलाइजर है, ट्रैक्टर है, पम्प और ट्रैक्टर है, उनको सस्ता देने के लिये क्या सरकार उनकी कीमत को सब्सिडाइज करेगी या उनको यह चीजें सस्ती दिलाने की कृपा करेगी ताकि किसानों की माली हालत अच्छी हो और वह ज्यादा गेहूँ पैदा कर सकें और उनकी हालत गरीबी की ओर न जाये। तो क्या माननीय मन्त्री जी इस बारे में विचार करेंगे ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Sir, may I submit that those who plead the cause of the farmers should verify—I put it very straight-away to them—whether it is in the interest of the Indian farmer if wheat goes on accumulating in the market ? To my mind, what is in the interest of the farmer is that there is large-scale consumption of wheat. As I said earlier, we are trying to protect the interest of the farmer, that production is not discouraged. But we should also see that accumu-

lation does not take place and ultimately the whole price structure gets depressed affecting the farmer's interest. I think many Members of the House who champion the cause of the farmer are not aware of this particular aspect all the time. Therefore, I submit this for their consideration.

श्री गनेशी लाल चौधरी : मेरा तो स्पेसिफिक क्वेश्चन है कि क्या उसके इस्तेमाल की रोजमर्रा की चीजें जो प्रोडक्शन के लिए जरूरी हैं उनकी प्राइसेज को सरकार सब्सिडाइज करने का विचार करेगी ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

\*211. [The questioner (Shri Suraj Prasad) was absent. For answer vide cols. S3-34 infra]

\*212. [The questioner (Shri M. K. Mohta) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 34-35 infra]

\*213. [The questioners (Sarvashri K. C. Panda, Lokanath Misru, Sundar Manx Patel and Chandramouli Jagarlamudi) were absent. For answer, vide cols. 35-37 infra]

#### CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL SCIENCES WITH U.S.S.R.

\*214. SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any protocol for the work-plan for the development of scientific and technical co-operation in the field of Agriculture and Animal Sciences between the Government of India and the U. S. S. R. has been signed ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Agreement operative for five years in the first instance was entered into on 18th June, 1971, between the Government of India and the Government of U.S.S.R. for development of Scientific and Technical Co-operation in the field of Agriculture and Animal Sciences. The recent talks were in pursuance of this Agreement and covered the programme for 1972 and the first half of 1973. A copy of the Protocol of the talks signed on 10.4.1972 is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [Set Appendix LXXX, Annexure No. 251