

more difficult areas. Particularly western Rajasthan areas are drought-affected areas and deserve our attention.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know what is the quantum of UNDP assistance in men and money? And secondly it appears that the experimental tube-wells dug in by the UNDP and the Central Underground Water Board make an encouraging experience. And if the Government agrees that the experiment in digging tubewells in these areas of Rajasthan has been successful, what further steps do the Government plan to take in view of the preliminary reports and in view of the tubewells of one kind and 57 tubewells if the other kind being successful? Will the Government take steps to accelerate the work in this direction?

SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA: The total UNDP contribution for the contribution would be about ten lakh US dollars. And so far as the other steps are concerned, if the Rajasthan Government asks the Central Government, if the Central Government will certainly help the Rajasthan Government.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: What is this, "If the Rajasthan Government wants"? The Government has designed the scheme and the Minister has correctly said that the Government is giving Rajasthan a favoured-State treatment. In view of this, has the Government itself in plan to accelerate the construction of more tubewells in these areas? Why wait in the Rajasthan Government?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to add anything?

SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA: The fact is this that the Central Ground Water department works on deposit-work basis and not for exploratory work and the entire cost of the tubewell, whether it is successful or unsuccessful, has to be paid by the State Government. This is the procedure.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: No, no. Unsuccessful ones are paid by you. You do not know your own things.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, be quick.

SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA: But when we work for exploration, only successful tubewells (those discharging 20,000 I.G.P.H. at 20 ft. draw-down) are to be taken over by the State Government on payment and the cost of unsuccessful tube wells is borne by us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

SHRI N. G. GJRAY: What about me?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have already taken more than ten minutes. It is not a very important question.

LS19RSS--2(i)

SETTING UP OF RICE MILLS BY FOOD CORPORATION

496. SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAL
SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has a proposal to set up rice mills in certain States; and

(b) if yes, what are the details regarding the location and the investment involved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI S. C. JAMIR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement indicating the locations of the rice mills is placed on the table of the House.

The total investment required for setting up of the rice mills by F.C.I. is estimated at Rs. 300 lakhs.

STATEMENT

The Locations of the Rice Mills

1. Olavakkot (Kerala).
2. Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu).
3. Mannargudi (Tamil Nadu).
4. Sembanarkoil (Tamil Nadu).
5. Chidambaram (Tamil Nadu).
6. Nellore (Andhra Pradesh).
7. Nivamabad (Andhra Pradesh).
8. Miryalaguda (Andhra Pradesh).
9. Sattanpalli (Andhra Pradesh).
10. Hirakud (Orissa).
11. Durgripalli (Orissa).
12. Chanpatia (Bihar).
13. Purnea (Bihar).
14. Rudrapur (Uttar Pradesh).
15. Karnal (Haryana).
16. Batala (Punjab).
17. Patiala (Punjab).
18. Suri (West Bengal).
19. Buniyadpur (West Bengal).
20. Durgapur (West Bengal).
21. Hojai (Assam).
22. North Lakhimpur (Assam).
23. Bankura Distt. (West Bengal) 1
24. Koraput Distt. (Orissa) ^Tentative
25. Imphal (Manipur). J

+The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M. K. Mohta.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Did I hear the hon'ble Minister as saying Rs. 3.09 lakhs?

SHRI S. C. JAMIR: No. It is Rs. 309 lakhs.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: May I ask the hon'ble Minister as to how many rice mills are there already in the country and whether it is considered that these rice mills are not in a position to mill all the paddy that is available in the country and that is why the Government is coming forward with a proposal to set up 25 more rice mills, or is there any other reason for investing public funds into a very simple and ordinary industry which can be taken up by small-scale and middle-scale enterprises? That is my first question.

SHRI S. C. JAMIR: Sir, up-to-date we have 62,384 private rice mills, excluding U.P., and in the co-operative sector we have about 779 rice mills. That is the number of rice mills that we have in the country today. The idea of having these rice mills in the public sector was initiated as a result of a recommendation of the expert committee of the Ford Foundation. Since the production of rice has increased, in order to cope with this there is the necessity of having these rice mills in the public sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to put another question, Mr. Mohta?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I would just add. Actually the installed capacity, as has been pointed out by the hon'ble Member, is more than the production in our country. But the main reason why we are insisting on modernisation is this that most of our mills are huller or shelter type which are obsolete and outmoded where the element of wastage is very much. The out-turn of rice is very low. It is estimated that we lose to the tune of Rs. 150 crores; the precise figure is Rs. 144 crores every year as a result of wastage in these huller and shelter type of mills. Therefore, there is need to modernise this industry. That is why this House very generously supported the Rice Milling (Amendment) Bill which was piloted by me in this House. There is need in India to modernise the rice-milling industry. All that the F.C.I. is doing is to set the pace and show direction to the country. It will have to be by modernising both the rice mills in the private sector and the cooperative sector.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: Sir, according to the reply earlier given by the hon. Minister, 62,000 rice mills are already there in the country along with another 779 in the co-operative sector. I do not understand what the necessity is for these 25 mills being set up by the Government. According to the hon. Minister, the real crux of the problem is to modernise the existing mills in the country. Why was it not considered necessary by the Government to set up these 25 mills in the co-operative sector? Why was

more assistance not given to the existing mills to modernise and, if necessary, to expand their facilities to stop the wastage that the hon. Minister has pointed out? Are these 25 mills expected to be run economically, or are they going to incur further losses for the Exchequer? Secondly, I am still intrigued as to what kind of rice mills are going to be set up with only an investment of Rs. 12,000 on each of them, in view of the fact that only Rs. 3 lakhs are to be spent on these 25 rice mills.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, I think the hon. Minister has completely misunderstood it. Nowhere have we said that each rice mill would be set up with an investment of only Rs. 12,000.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA: You said it was Rs. 3 lakhs for 25 mills.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: No, it is Rs. 3 crores.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, then you need not labour that point.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: There is only one more point, i.e. why the FCI is doing it in the public sector. Mr. Mohta may know that we have been insisting on the private mills to modernise the existing rice mills. But unfortunately steps were not being taken in the private sector. So, we thought that by example we should show to them. These are a sort of demonstration units which would help both the private sector and the cooperative sector to put up similar rice mills.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Sir, the hon. Minister said that these mills are being set up because the Government is anxious to modernise the rice mills. I would like to ask him whether the machinery for these rice mills is being manufactured here and whether it is purely indigenous in content. Secondly, in the statement he has given, the name of NEFA, which is a rice-growing area, is not there. If you want to develop the backward regions, a beginning should have been made with NEFA. Why was NEFA ignored in regard to the setting up of these rice mills?

SHRI S. C. JAMIR: Sir, the Ministry of Finance had made available Rs. 20 lakhs to the Food Department out of the Yen credit. So, with this money we have imported these 24 modern rice mills.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Where from do you get the machinery?

SHRI S. C. JAMIR: We had imported it from Japan out of the foreign exchange made available from the Yen credit. The rest are being manufactured in India, by three firms. Regarding the question of setting up these rice mills in NEFA, there should be sufficient paddy, at least 20,000 to 25,000 tonnes per year, and since rice is not grown

so abundantly there, it is not feasible to have rice mills there at present.

SHRI GULAM NABI UNTOO: I understand the Minister is aware that there exists one State on the map of India called Jammu and Kashmir where the main staple food is rice and the main agricultural produce is rice. I understand how the name of this State does not find a place in the statement laid on the Table and how it has not struck the mind of the Government of India that some rice mills should have been established there. Is it because of their ignorance or because of their apathy?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, we shall be very sympathetic to the question of putting up modern rice mills in Jammu and Kashmir. This is a list of mills being put up by the Food Corporation of India and union units under the Food Corporation of India Act does not apply to Jammu and Kashmir. But we are trying to look into the question.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Sir, I would like to ask whether they have taken note of the fact that the modernisation of these mills may affect the small-scale sector and if so, what they are going to do about it.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Handpounding, etc. is still protected. Even under the new law that protection is there for the handpounding industry. But as far as obsolete and old type mills are concerned, there can be a small-scale industry. But I think these mills are not very big. Still they can be established in a cooperative sector on a national basis. These are only two or three lakhs. The small-scale industry need not have any such fear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Dharia.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Sir, if the Chair is going to follow scrupulously this rule of ten minutes per question, I would like to cooperate with the Chair and I will not put in supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, but I cannot say if I can follow it scrupulously because that depends upon the cooperation that I get from all honourable Members.

LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS ON RICE MOVEMENT

497. SHRI ARJUN ARORA:—DR. SALIG RAM: SHRI K. FISHAN KANT: SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the lifting of restrictions on the movement of rice in the country; and

(b) if so, what is the final decision?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI S. C. JAMR): (a) and (b) The restrictions on the movement of rice were last reviewed at the Chief Ministers' Conference held at New Delhi in September, 1970. It was agreed that existing inter State movement restrictions on rice should continue.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know the reason why some restrictions still continue?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: As regards restrictions we do not allow rice movement beyond the States. There are State restrictions. As far as other grains are concerned, there is no restriction except in the ration areas of Bombay and Calcutta. But this question specifically refers to rice, and we have practically State-wise zones for rice.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: He has not replied to my question. Why is it that in the case of rice the inter-State movement is prohibited while there is no restriction in the case of wheat and other cereals? This was my question. He has not replied to that.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: The reason is we still have shortage of rice as compared to the total requirements in our country. And if the movement of rice is not restricted, the Government will not be in a position to nunciate the quantities of rice to places where rice is actually required. There are certain areas in the country where the purchasing power is very high. From the areas where there is a marketable surplus of rice, it will flow to other areas. So this rationale has already been explained by my colleague in the main part of the reply. We generally act on the basis of the advice of the Chief Ministers, and the consensus of the Chief Ministers' Conference was in favour of continuing the *status quo* as far as rice is concerned.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know what the quantities of rice are that are moved from various States to other States, from the surplus States to the deficit States?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: About the exact quantities which are moved on behalf of the Food Corporation of India which is in charge of all this, I require notice. But the general pattern is known to all. There are some States like Kerala, West Bengal and Maharashtra which are deficit States, and rice movement takes place to these States from the surplus areas.

डा० शशिप्राम : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस तरह से राइस के मूवमेंट में रेस्ट्रिक्शंस लगाने से उस एरिया में