

at least advisable to provide him with such facilities so that he can take to the necessary changes in his cotton cultivation because, whereas the Bengal Deshi fetches him something like 55 or 60 per cent of the value of the long staple cotton, long staple cotton would give him much more revenue. So I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that it is only because of the shortage of irrigational facilities, particularly irrigational facilities among other things, that these lands cannot be converted from Bengal Deshi to slightly long staple varieties of cotton? That is number one. And number two, is it not a fact that, according to the trade estimates, with which the Foreign Trade Ministry is also in agreement, something like ten crores of rupees per year are needed for the cotton development programme as a whole which will result in higher revenue to the small farmer today, whereas the Planning Commission has been granting something like 50 lakhs to 90 lakhs of rupees per year for this programme? If so, what are the Agriculture Ministry's views regarding the expenditure on the cotton development programme and whether there is any possibility of increasing the expenditure and, if so, to what extent?

**SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE:** Sir, on paper it appears all right and it can be asked why on the land, where at present Bengal Deshi cotton is grown, other varieties should not be introduced and why thereby the income of the farmer should not be augmented but, if the hon. Member would try to understand, Bengal Deshi cotton is grown in a coarse type of land and under particular climatic conditions, and our experts have found out that it is not possible to use this land for the American or other superior types of cotton. Otherwise, we would have been only too glad to do that. But it is not practically feasible. Secondly Sir, as for the question whether more expenditure cannot be incurred for developing cotton, I am in agreement with the hon. Member. We are trying to influence the Planning Commission and let us hope that our efforts will succeed.

**SHRI M. K. MOHTA:** My second question has been whether it has come to the notice of the Government that wherever irrigational facilities have been extended the farmers have been able to switch over from Bengal Deshi to other American varieties of cotton and, if so, why a concerted effort should not be made to provide the irrigational facilities, because the farmer of this particular variety is suffering most in Haryana Punjab and also Rajasthan.

**SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE:** In Punjab now mostly superior types of cotton are

grown where the irrigation facilities are available. The problem is really confined to Haryana and U.P. and there these areas are mostly coarse type lands, and our experts do not consider that this superior cotton can be grown in these areas. As far as the general problem of increasing the percentage of irrigated area under cotton is concerned, it is really a major issue. Unfortunately, in this country, 85% of the cotton is grown under unirrigated conditions, and that is one of the reasons why our yields are very low. Our effort is to increase the percentage.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Mr. Gurupadaswamy, have you any questions to put?

**SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:** No, Sir.

**MR. CHAIRMAN.** Next question

#### RECOGNITION OF TRADE UNION

\*502. **SHRI KRISHAN KANT:**†

**DR. SALIG RAM:**

**SHRI RAJENDRA PRATAP SINHA:**

**SHRI ARJUN ARORA:**

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accepted the recommendations of the National Labour Commission relating to recognition of trade unions; and

(b) if so, the action taken in pursuance thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BISHWA NATH ROY):** (a) and (b) The 29th Meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held in July 1970 accepted the recommendations of the National Commission on Labour regarding recognition of trade unions with some modifications. Further action, by way of promoting legislation, is being considered by Government in the light of the Committee's conclusions.

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT:** May I know by what time the Government will bring forward legislation for recognition of trade unions?

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:** This was the recommendation of the National Labour Commission which has been considered in the Standing Labour Committee and also in the Labour Minister's Conference. On this we have also informally consulted the various trade union organisations. Different opinions have been given by the State Governments, by the labour representatives and

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

also by the employers. Now it is under the active consideration of the Government and very soon, after we have had one more round of talks with the employees' federations, we shall come before Parliament with the legislation.

**SHRI KRISHAN KANT:** May I know from the hon. Member how long the second round of talks will take and whether this legislation will come up in this session or will it be in the next session? And will it be verification of the trade union membership or secret ballot? Has any decision been taken about it?

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:** Sir, we have, at the various levels as I described, discussed this matter. Now some of the trade unions like the AIUUC and others require one more round of talks and we propose that this should be taken up at the highest levels. We shall fix the time very soon for this discussion.

About the second part of the question, that is the crucial part of the problem. Verification or secret ballot? That is the question about which we have to decide. That is the matter to be discussed and as I have told this House before also there are certain State Governments and workers' representatives and federations which want secret ballot whereas others want verification. It is this question which has to be ironed out in this meeting.

**SHRI M. M. DHARIA:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, is the Government aware that because of the rivalries between the unions the production in the country has suffered a great deal and in these circumstances may I know whether there is any proposal before the Government to have only one union in one industry at least in the public sector and if so what efforts are being made to have one union in one industry?

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:** Sir, it is a known fact, to all concerned and to the House as well, that there are in the same plant, not merely in the same industry, various unions and rivalry among the unions does tell upon production and industrial relations. The National Labour Commission has recommended that we should, as we have at present in four States of India, that is, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, provide for the compulsory recognition of a representative union as the bargaining agent. The Central Government also should have a central legislation covering all the States in the country on this issue. Therefore, we are actively considering this particular issue, which I hope will to a great extent, settle this question.

**SHRI T. V. ANANDAN:** Sir, can the Parliament be right in prescribing a policy which the Parliament Members themselves

are not able to follow? So many political parties exist in this country not interested in the country's welfare at all. As such can we prescribe one union in one industry.

Another point is, the Constitution provides that such of those who have attained 21 years of age are entitled to vote but is everybody who has attained the age of 21 allowed to vote? Unless he enrols himself as a voter in the voter's list he cannot vote. As such can a secret ballot for every worker in an industry be allowed when he does not care to become a member of a trade union? Will the Government consider all these factors before coming to a decision on this vital issue of recognition?

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:** As I have explained and as the hon. Member, Mr. Anandan, says, various important and vital issues are to be considered. They have been considered in the tripartite and also bipartite meetings and are being considered every day and views expressed upon them even in Parliament. To the first part of the question it is not for me to reply. If the various parties are trying to have their unions in one industry or even in one plant, how can I stop that? All I can say is that the Central Government, on the recommendation of the National Labour Commission, is at present thinking of a Central legislation for the recognition of unions. In the present circumstances, barring four States, others are under the Code of Discipline in this regard.

**SHRI CHITTA BASU:** My first question is what are the grounds of objection to recognition through the secret ballot. What are the general grounds of objection so far intimated by the State Governments and employers? Secondly, may I know whether it is not a fact that the West Bengal Government passed a legislation for the recognition of trade unions and sent it to the President for his assent? But it was returned. May I know whether the Government of West Bengal has sent back that Bill further for the assent of the President?

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:** About the objections, I need not repeat them. It is known to all the hon. Members and in all the forums it is being discussed. The present method is by verification. Excepting the Governments of Kerala, West Bengal, Bihar and the Union territories of Daman and Diu and Pondicherry, the other Governments wanted that it should be by verification. It is known to all hon. Members. It is said that if we adopt the method of secret ballot, all those who are there will vote. That means that even those who are not unionised—only about thirty per cent are unionised today—will also be able to select representatives of the workers in the country. Then, what will happen to the trade union movement itself? That is the

basic question which is being raised in all the conferences. That is the objection. The State Governments and also the employers are not for it. There are some workers' federations which want the secret ballot. Some State Governments, which I have mentioned, also want it. About the second part, it is true that the West Bengal Government sent us a Bill about secret ballot. We requested them to see that there are certain laws, the Centre's labour policies, which affect the entire country. I hope the hon. Member will agree that this is one which affects the entire country. Therefore, we requested them whether it would be possible for them to wait till a Central decision was taken.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** Although the State Government and the Central Government agree with some of the recommendations of the National Labour Commission, especially the one relating to the recognition of the unions and other matters like that, may I know whether it is not a fact that as a result of this attitude of the Government some unions boycotted the meeting and protested against it? Let him answer it.

**SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD:** The last meeting held some time ago was not attended by the representatives of the AITUC. They did not participate in the meeting. They said that they had got basic objections to the working of the labour laws in the country and the industrial relations system and other things. Informally, we requested them and we talked to them, but somehow or other we have not been able to convince them. We are looking forward to an opportunity in future to discuss with them the different aspects of industrial relations.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### CULTIVATION OF SWEET POTATO

\*498. **SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to popularise cultivation of tuber crops like tapioca and sweet potato in regions where cultivation of major cereals are not possible;

(b) in which States demonstration farms have been established to popularise the improved varieties of tuber crops; and

(c) which State Governments have taken interest to popularise them during the Fourth Plan?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,**

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE):** (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

### UNSECURED LOANS TO SMALL FARMERS

\*500. **SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any programme to give unsecured loans to the small farmers to make the production increased in 1970-71, and

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

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE):** (a) and (b) The loaning policies of institutional agencies like cooperatives and commercial banks have been oriented to provide loans to small farmers on the basis of production potential and repaying capacity, rather than on the basis of security.

श्री चारुमजूमदार की मलिकयत  
की भूमि

\*503. श्री निरंजन वर्मा :

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी :

श्री प्रेम मनोहर :

श्री ना० कृ० शेजवलकर :

श्री लाल झाडवाणी :

क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि नक्सली नेता श्री चारु मजूमदार के पास चम्पासारी क्षेत्र में अधिकतम सीमा से अधिक भूमि थी जिसे उसने अब अपने दो नजदीकी रिश्तेदारों के नाम हस्तान्तरित कर दिया है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि 1967 में सरकार ने श्री मजूमदार से 63 एकड़ भूमि ली थी जिसके एबज में उसे 30 हजार रुपये दिये जा रहे हैं ; और

(ग) ऐसे अन्य नक्सलवादी नेताओं के नाम क्या हैं जिनके पास निर्धारित अधिकतम सीमा से अधिक भूमि है अथवा जिन्होंने अपने अपने रिश्तेदारों को भूमि हस्तान्तरित कर