

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Sir, it is not a question of how much amount is involved in cases of breach of trust. As I said, the moment there are defaults, we will prosecute them under the Act, which provides for a five and six months imprisonment. Now, as Mr. Mulka Govinda Reddy just now suggested we have already tried it because we thought, why can't we prosecute them for that breach of trust because they deduct the money of the employees and they do not deposit it. The employers' share of the money is also not deposited in some cases. Therefore we went to the ceiling with prosecutions for breach of trust and we have succeeded in a few cases in Bombay. The amount involved in such cases, I cannot say how much it is, but we can go into the cases where we find such is the case. About the other one as I said Rs. 11 crores was due last year. I had given the figure and we have been able to realise Rs. 2.55 crores and the rest also we are trying all these methods.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: I find from the list that the biggest number of defaulters is from Maharashtra and the biggest amount is also due from Maharashtra; it is of the order of four crores and forty six lakhs. Out of this long list of defaulters in Maharashtra which consists of 21 concerns, nineteen are spinning and weaving mills. Does it mean that there is something wrong with the spinning and weaving mills? Will the Government take note of this fact and try to find out what is wrong with them?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: It is true that we have got a large number of defaulters in Maharashtra and most of them spinning and weaving mills. 65 per cent of the total defaulters means a third of the amounts due are from the textile industry because as the hon. Member knows there is some trouble with the textile mills. Most of them are sick and they are not giving it. Some Members were saying it is because the Government is running them. Government takes them over when they become sick in order to avoid a great number becoming unemployed. The Government have appointed custodians and they are running them.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: Government has also become sick.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Government is the doctor who has taken care of the sick mills in Maharashtra.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: My point was if these mills are sick what the Government has been doing is to take them over, nurse them back to health and then again hand them to the employers. What I am saying is, if they are sick, scrap them and start new mills.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: Sir, I can only say about the provident fund part of the question. This is a larger question of policy which does not concern me. The hon. Member can direct his question to the concerned Ministry.

WASTAGE OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

*415. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 30 per cent of total production of fruits and vegetables in the country go waste in various ways; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to prevent such huge wastage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) The post-harvest losses in the production of fruits and vegetables occur due to several factors such as improper methods of harvesting, handling and packing; bad transportation and inadequate storage. Delays in marketing after arrivals in the terminal markets, and shortage of cold storage or godown space also causes these losses.

No studies have been carried out to determine the extent of these losses in respect of various fruits and vegetables but from the information

collected by the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection during the course of their marketing surveys, it is estimated that on an average this wastage affects 20 to 25% of the production of fruits and vegetables in the country.

The measures already taken or proposed to be taken to minimise these losses are as below:

The Central Food Technological Research Institute has been carrying out research to determine the proper stage of harvesting of some fruits. It has also developed some techniques to minimise damage during transit and storage. The Extension Agencies in some of the major fruit growing States are educating the growers in these methods of harvesting and handling. Cold storages have been licensed to ensure proper condition of storage. Their number has increased from about 700 in 1965 to over 1,200 at the end of 1969. It is proposed to expand this facility further all over the country. To speed the transit of perishables, the railways have been requested to increase refrigerated transport and to run special "green-line" express trams for their speedy movement. They have also been advised to provide insulated wagons for the movement of perishables instead of ordinary steel wagons in which damage often occurs on account of absence of ventilation and presence of excessive heat. In addition to this, an Agricultural Marketing Research-Cum-Training-Cum-Demonstration Institute is being set up at Nagpur during the Fourth Five Year Plan with the assistance of the FAO and UNDP. This Institute will study problems relating to handling, packing, transport and storage of perishables and evolve and demonstrate application of techniques for reducing wastages which are practicable and economical for the trade.

SHRI CHITTA BASJJ: In the statement referred to by the Minister he says that the number of cold storages has increased from 700 in 1965 to over 1,200 at the end of 1969. May I

know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has undertaken any study as to the requirements of cold storages needed to cover the entire perishable vegetables and fruits in our country?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: There have been some studies on this but cold storages will be required in such large numbers. Take the case of potatoes alone for instance. U.P., Bihar and some other States produce large quantities of potatoes. For storing potatoes alone a very large number of cold storages will be required. Then in our country there are fruits and vegetables and other perishable commodities which require cold storage facilities. In the Fourth Five Year Plan of course a very modest programme has been put in but mainly we expect the capacity to develop in the private sector in addition to co-operatives and Government sector.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: My question has not been understood, neither was it answered.

SHRI A. D. MANI: He has understood it all right but he has not answered it.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I would say I have not got the specific figure. Those studies have been of a very broad nature and specific figures have not been worked out. With proper notice I may try to give him some figure which may be available with the Government.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Anyway, he has rightly stressed on the problem that a large quantity of fruits and vegetables perish because of lack of storage facilities. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would also consider the desirability of setting up some small industries in order to process such available fruits in the country so that they may not perish and so that they may be processed in the area where they are grown and can be used for consumption of our people who need them in larger quantities due to lack of food production in the country?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: That is our approach and, in fact, as far as the co-operative sector is concerned, we give substantial assistance to the National Co-operative Development Corporation to start such enterprises. The field is open to the private and other sectors and Government would not come in their way. Government would encourage such activities.

SHRI PHOOI SINGH: Is the Government aware that whatever cold storage facility is there, it is not available to the cultivators because the proprietors store their own crops and the cultivators are not able to get it? That happens whenever any crop is in abundant supply. What steps do the Government propose to take to ensure the right of the cultivators to have their crops stored?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: For that if the growers, producers or farmers themselves organise themselves in a co-operative society and want to start a co-operative cold storage, we have schemes for assisting them. We have been advising the State Governments to undertake this activity so that such cold storages owned by farmers' co-operatives come up with State assistance as well as Central assistance.

श्री सुलतान सिंह : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि फाजिलका और अयोधर के इलाके में जो अंगूरों की पैदावार होती है, सरकार ने उस की मार्केटिंग का क्या इंतजाम किया है ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Am I expected to reply to this? The hon. Member is asking what the Government has in a particular district.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : क्या श्रीमन्, यह बताने का कष्ट करेंगे कि विदेशों में जहाँ पर फल अधिक होते हैं, उन को सुखा कर के, उन का चूर्ण बना कर के इन्वे में उस को बन्द कर के विदेशों में भेजा जाता है। क्या भारत सरकार इस तरह की कोई व्यवस्था कर रही है कि जिस प्रान्त में अधिक फल होते हैं उन को सुखा कर के, पैक कर के बाहर भेजने के लिये या भीतर देश

में ही कनजम्पशन के लिये कोई योजना बने ? ऐसी कोई योजना ग्राम के पास है या नहीं या ऐसा कोई कारखाना पब्लिक अंडरटेकिंग में ग्राम बनाने का विचार रखने है या नहीं ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: There are many such schemes in the State sector and the Government also is thinking of it. For instance, in Jammu and Kashmir, apple production is coming up. Similarly, in Himachal Pradesh and throughout the Himalayan ranges the horticultural products are coming up. In the coastal areas mangoes and other horticulture products are coming up. So, Government would very much like modern packing and processing facilities being made available in these areas, but it will take many, many years. It is a question of resources. Government has quite substantial plans on hand to undertake such activities.

SHRIMATI SATYAVATT DANG: In the new Subzimidandi of Delhi there are different platforms for other fruits to be sold wholesale, but for apples they have not made one platform where all the apples can be sold from. Will the Government please take it up?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Government is seized of the problem. We have actually suggested some solution and with a little positive cooperation from the Delhi Administration, I think it should be possible to find some solution to the problem to which the hon. lady Member has referred.

DEATH OF RARE ANIMALS IN ALIPORE Zoo

*416. SHRI KALYAN ROY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item appearing in the Statesman (Calcutta edition) dated the 15th April, 1970 to the effect that a number of