

based on their advice. The policies depend upon the prospects of sugarcane crop and other relevant factors.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Madam, we two Members had asked a definite question and it has not been answered.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You cannot go on like this in the question hour. Mr. Z. A. Ahmad.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : Our question was this. What is the view of the Government on the demand of the U.P. M.L.As, for nationalising the sugar factories ?

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM : Madam . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I wish the Ministers would give full replies. Otherwise the Members stand up again and again after they put their questions and that disturbs the question hour. The Treasury Benches should also be careful.

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM : What I wanted to say was, again it is a question of policy as to whether we are going to nationalise the sugar factories or not. I am very reluctant, Madam. I do not know whether the question of policy can be discussed now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is what I said; policy cannot be discussed. Only information could be sought.

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD : May I ask a question from the producers' angle, from the cane-growers' angle? I would submit that there is still shortage of sugar in the country; the supply is not adequate enough to meet the demand. It exists particularly in the villages. I do not agree with my friend, Mr. Pande, that there is abundance of sugar. It may be in the towns but not in the villages. It is not so. In view of the fact that we must produce more sugar in the country in order to satisfy the legitimate demands of the people is it not necessary that a proper remunerative price should be given to the sugarcane growers? Last year the price that was fixed was not remunerative enough; this year also perhaps the price is going to be fixed at the same level, between Rs. 70 to Rs. 100 a tonne. This is not at all remunerative in view of the high cost of production. The grower has to

put in fertiliser, water and other things. Therefore is the Government contemplating to fix a price which is remunerative enough in order to give incentive to the sugarcane growers to grow more sugarcane?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Madam, it has been the policy of the Government as far as possible to give remunerative prices to the farmers. The farmers' interests are uppermost in the mind of the Government and that is why during the last two years the farmers have benefited and that is why the acreage under sugarcane has increased. The preliminary estimates for the coming year also show that the acreage under sugarcane is increasing in all the important sugarcane-growing States.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : In view of the fact that the sugar factory workers get the lowest wage in the world and the agricultural labourers who produce sugarcane are also the lowest paid in the world and the price of sugar in India is the highest in the world, may I know from the Government what are the reasons for this sort of affairs and who are the people who get the benefit out of this low wage to the producers and the high price in the market?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I am not prepared to accept the proposition made by the hon. Member that the wages or the pay scales of the workers in the sugar industry are not proper. In fact, wage boards from time to time have gone into the problem. Our sugar prices are relatively higher, but the reasons are well known. Conditions differ from country to country. We have major sugarcane areas in the sub-tropical zone where particularly the yields are low and recovery also is low.

STUDY TEAM TO ASCERTAIN THE REASONS OF DISCONTENTMENT AMONG LABOURERS

*417. **SHRI R. P. KHAITAN :** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to appoint a Study Team to find out the causes of the increasing discontentment among the labourers throughout the country and to suggest remedial measures therefor; and

(b) if so, by when such a team will be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal to appoint a study team. The National Commission on Labour appointed by Government in December '66 is already going into all aspects of the matter and is expected to submit its report to Government by the end of August, 1969.

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : मैडम, क्या मैं मंत्री जी से यह पूछ सकता हूँ कि लेबर डिसकॉन्टेंटमेंट के कारण बहुत दिनों से लेबर और मैनेजमेंट में झगड़े चल रहे हैं और अभी जूट मिल्स में स्ट्राइक चल रहा है जिस से नेशनल लास हो रहा है? यदि ऐसा है, तो क्या मंत्री जी बतलायेंगे कि वे कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था करने की बात सोच रहे हैं जिस से लेबर मैनेजमेंट और कैपिटल में हिस्सा ले सके?

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : यह प्रश्न स्टडी टीम के बहाल करने का है। हम लोग यह इस लिये नहीं कर सकते हैं क्योंकि नेशनल लेबर कमीशन की रिपोर्ट की प्रतीक्षा की जा रही है। जहां तक एम्पलायर और एम्पलाई के आप के झगड़े का प्रश्न है, हर विषय में चाहे वह उनके वेजेज के सम्बन्ध में हो, चाहे डिग्रनेस अलाउंस के संबंध में हो, हम यह कोशिश करते रहते हैं कि कोई समाधान निकल आये। अभी भी हमारे मंत्री जी जूट मिल्स के ओनर्स और एम्पलाइज से बात कर रहे हैं ताकि उनका प्रश्न हल हो जाय।

श्री आर० पी० खेतान : अभी आपने बताया कि मंत्री जी जूट मिल्स के सम्बन्ध में बात कर रहे हैं, लेकिन यह जो सात दिन से स्ट्राइक चल रही है और हमारा नेशनल लास हो रहा है इसके बारे में पहले से क्यों नहीं बातचीत की गई?

श्री भागवत झा आजाद : इसके पहले भी बात हुई थी। आप जानते हैं कि इस प्रश्न पर एम्पलायर्स और एम्पलाइज से बात हुई थी और हमने कोशिश की थी कि कोई हल

निकल आये। लेकिन वह संभव नहीं हो सका तो हम क्या कर सकते हैं।

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Is it so much necessary for the Government to wait for the report of the National Labour Commission? Is not the Government aware that the present dispute-settling machinery is denying justice by delaying justice? Is not the Government aware that the cost of living index which was 100 in 1954 has gone up to nearly 230 in 1969 and that the social and economic situation in the country is the cause of discontent? Is not the Government aware that though the participation of workers in management has been assured since long, the Government has not taken any steps in the matter? Will the hon. Minister let us know why he should wait for the report of the National Labour Commission when the Government is not going to take some steps in the matter?

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : There are two important questions which the hon. Member has raised. One is about the cost of living index. It is true that whenever such things happen we try to link it with the cost of living index. The other most important question is about the participation of labour in industry. Government have agreed with it in principle and Government still agree that this is the way by which production can be increased. That is why at present—I remember it and I can say from memory though it does not relate to this question—there are 54 private sector and 34 public sector establishments in which participation of labour in management is there. But it has been agreed to by all the States that this can only be done voluntarily. We had the Indian Labour Conference and we had the sub-committee of labour and employers and it was agreed to that this principle of participation by labour should be applied voluntarily. Therefore, at present, in spite of our efforts, we have not been able to do much more.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know whether the cause of the widespread discontent amongst workers is one of the specific terms of reference to the National Labour Commission and may I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that the discontent is due to the high cost of living and the fact that the increase in the cost of living is nowhere neutralised hundred

per cent? Has the Government applied its mind to the desirability of securing 100 per cent neutralisation of the rise in the cost of living index? Unless, that is done, discontent will remain, though Commissions may come and Commissions may go.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : It is precisely because this has been raised from time to time by labour mostly that they should have full neutralisation of the rise in the cost of living that we try to find out means to link the increased dearness allowance with the increase in the cost of living. We are aware of it. The terms of the National Labour Commission are very wide. One is to review the changes in the conditions of labour since independence and to report on the existing conditions of labour. His point is covered by this because it is a high-power commission. We are hoping that by the end of August their report will come out and we will be able to formulate our policy, though we took steps in the past according to our attitude on this matter as well.

सहकारी बैंक तथा भूमि विकास बैंक

*418. श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव :†

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा :

क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने को कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत दस वर्षों में सहकारी बैंकों तथा भूमि विकास बैंकों के लिये सरकार द्वारा कितने धन की व्यवस्था की गई;

(ख) गत दस वर्षों में बिहार के सहकारी बैंकों तथा भूमि विकास बैंकों द्वारा अलग-अलग किसानों को प्रति वर्ष कितना धन उपलब्ध किया गया और उन्हें कितनी सहायता दी गई;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि सहकारी आन्दोलन में बिहार बहुत पिछड़ा हुआ है; और यदि हाँ, तो इस राज्य को महाराष्ट्र, गुजरात, मद्रास और आन्ध्र प्रदेश आदि के समतुल्य बनाने के लिये सरकार द्वारा इसे दी गई सुविधाओं का व्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक बिहार की भूमि विकास सहकारी समितियों की प्रगति में बाधा पहुँचा रहा है?

†[COOPERATIVE BANKS AND LAND DEVELOPMENT BANKS

*418. SHRI J. P. YADAV :

SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA :

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

(a) the amount of money that has been provided by Government to the Cooperative Banks and Land Development Banks of the country during the last ten years;

(b) the amount of money that was made available annually to the farmers by each of the Cooperative Banks and Land Development Banks in Bihar during the last ten years and the extent to which assistance was rendered to them;

(c) whether it is a fact that Bihar is lagging far behind in respect of cooperative movement and if so, the details of the facilities extended by Government to the State in order to bring it at par with Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madras, Andhra Pradesh etc.; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India is impeding the progress of Land Development Cooperatives of Bihar ?]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

(d) No, Madam.

@[खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सहकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम० एस० गुरुपादस्वामी) : (क) से (ग) जानकारी एकत्र की जा रही है और राज्य सभा के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

(घ) जो नहीं।]

†[] English translation.

*The question was actually asked on Yadav.

@[] Hindi translation.

the floor of the House by Shri J. P.